

# Students go on the rampage over cuts



MARTIN WILLIAMS

A TROUBLED university was plunged into a fresh crisis last night as more than 150 angry students announced they had taken it over after earlier attempts to end a sit-in backfired spectacularly.

The protesters ran rampage through some of the most historic parts of Glasgow University to confront principal Anton Muscatelli, while laying siege to the institution's administrative quarters.

The students claimed they were evicted from the Hetherington Research Club they had occupied for nearly two months in protest at cuts designed to save £20 million by 2014.

## Protesters lay siege to university

And Mr Muscatelli came under increasing pressure last night as a band of nearly 100 outraged academics signed a joint statement condemning the university's actions, which sparked the scenes of anarchy unprecedented in its 560-year history.

An operation involving up to 100 police officers, dogs and a hovering helicopter which began at 11am resulted in the Hetherington students being "forcibly removed" over three hours.

The group claims four students were

injured, two suffering dislocated shoulders and one suffering concussion.

Strathclyde Police said there were no injuries and said any suggestion the response to a university request was disproportionate was "frankly ridiculous".

As 700 students gathered around the research club as the police operation was in full swing, up to 200 decided to take the demonstration directly to the principal, chanting "retake the university" and "Muscatelli - out out out" as they forced open the locked doors

and clamoured through a maze of spiralling stairways and historic archways to get to the principal's office.

One window was smashed as students struggled to get past running police blockades trying to prevent them reaching Mr Muscatelli's office.

When they could not reach the principal, 150 decided to occupy the Senate building, home to the management of academic

Continued on Page 5

# Long-term failings led to collapse of Hetherington Research Club

(continued from front page)

The minutes also show that police were notified after concerns were raised regarding a sum of money that "disappeared" and was "unaccounted for".

Strathclyde police noted that they are investigating a former trustee of the HRC for alleged breach of trust and embezzlement.

"The University cannot make any decisions on how [the Club's debt] will be dealt with until the full figures are known."

According to the former staff representative, Eileen Boyle, the debt accrued was too much for one individual to be held responsible.

A statement released on behalf of the former staff said: "One of the main failings at the club was that accurate, verifiable financial records were not maintained and could not be provided to either the incoming Committee or the accountancy firm ... appointed by the University to investigate the situation."

"In those circumstances, it is difficult to see how an allegation of theft could be made or substantiated."

"The individual concerned approached the police of their own accord in an effort to clear their name, and they have the support and confidence of the non-managerial bar and kitchen staff in their attempts to do so."

At the January 25 meeting it was reported that cleaning had been "inadequate" for months, causing health and safety issues. The minutes say: "There is vomit and excrement in toilets for days after a major event, toilets blocked for days."

"There [was] vomit and excrement in toilets for days after a major event."

As part of the audit, Deloitte requested a copy of the Club's membership database, but this was "inadvertently deleted" by Dalrymple.

A petition containing 594 signatures for the return of the HRC's facilities and for the Hetherington Building to be re-opened was submitted to David Newall on March 9. Newall's response reiterated the University's position that, whilst the Club's closure is regrettable, it can only be re-established on the acceptance of a viable business plan.

He explained: "The University's managers are also disappointed at the Hetherington's closure and we have stated that we will give serious consideration should a business plan be submitted seeking support to re-establish a Postgraduate Club."

"Such a plan will require to be robust, particularly in the light of the business difficulties experienced by the Hetherington."



Jim Wilson

The total debt is thought to be around £50,000 but the CoM is unable to confirm any figures due to a lack of paperwork as the Club's accounts had not been audited since June 2008.

Despite assurances that any money owed to those made redundant by the Club's closure will be paid, the University has admitted that it cannot make any commitments to taking responsibility for the Club's debts until the total owed has been calculated.

A spokesman said: "The University will provide funds to ensure that all the Club's staff receive in full the sums they were due."

"The administrator for the Hetherington Club is in contact with the suppliers to establish exactly how much is owed. The University cannot make any decisions on how this will be dealt with until the full figures are known."

At a general meeting on March 10, after only four months in office, the current committee members resigned and a new CoM was elected.

The HRC's new president, Seumas Bates, was unable to comment on the events leading to the Club closing but was positive about its future.

He said: "The Club has been given the opportunity to reinvent itself, to renew itself, and to go on to provide even greater support for the students and staff of the University of Glasgow."

"By learning from the mistakes of the past we have the opportunity of developing a stronger and more relevant Club for our membership ... It is important to remember that although the building we all knew and loved has closed, the spirit of the Club lives on in its membership. In a very real sense they are the HRC, not bricks and mortar."



## 8. The anti-tax activist

EBEN WILSON, 58

**E** BEN Wilson isn't the kind of person to walk the streets with a megaphone shouting: "No ifs, no buts, we need taxation cuts," but that is pretty much his message. The man who has just set up TaxPayer Scotland, an offshoot of the TaxPayers' Alliance, describes himself as of the classical liberal persuasion. Inevitably, he is against big government, big deficits and big spending.

A former political economist who made TV science documentaries then set up as an entrepreneur, he is currently scouting for grassroots activists across Scotland; people who might be willing to walk into their local council offices and protest about spending priorities.

"In our modern democracies we have made, in a sense, a mistake, by letting government grow too large," he says, "and there aren't the institutions around to stop government growing."

Wilson looks forward to publication of the next town-hall rich list by the alliance. "The problem in Scotland," he says, "is the left will argue by slogan and they'll call you a bloody Tory. But really what we are is liberal, and that's an ancient Scottish tradition. Adam Smith invented it."



## 9. The old guard

RAYMOND WATT, 43

**T**ALK to any anti-cuts activist and you become involved in a discussion involving many different groups, each part of a multi-faceted movement. One of the organisations that brings them together is Right to Work.

Raymond Watt was heading for Egypt the week the revolution began but then serious violence began. Watt believes many people have been inspired by Egypt: "You see how quickly people can act," he says.

The secretary of the Edinburgh Right to Work campaign emerged from secondary school into the Thatcherite 1980s and the anger of the poll tax riots. Since he was 16 he has worked for what is now ScottishPower, and is the Unite union's ScottishPower secretary. He said colleagues felt student protesters were expressing what they felt: "We need to bring that feeling into the trade union movement - the idea that we can fight back."



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# Languages at university to be saved from the axe

But Czech and Polish courses are still at risk

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**ANDREW DENHOLM**  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MODERN languages at Glasgow University appear to have been saved from the axe, although doubts remain over the future of Czech and Polish cultural courses, according to a leaked report.

Earlier this year, the university drew up a range of proposals, the most extreme of which could have resulted in withdrawal from all language courses, apart from French, Spanish and Portuguese.

The university argued the School of Modern Languages and Cultures had a poor research record and was not recruiting enough postgraduate students - who pay higher fees.

As a result, the school was given a warning to improve or face closure within three years.

However, the proposals to close languages prompted outrage from students and staff, who argued the subjects were a vital part of the curriculum of an ancient university.

Now an internal consultation paper has recommended the university continues all of its languages, although they may be delivered in a different way.

That would mean the retention of degrees in French, Spanish, Hispanic Studies, German, Italian and Comparative Literature and Russian, although staff levels will be reviewed.

The panel has also recommended the overall savings target reduced to £240,000.



REACTION University proposals to use school provided outrage.

Its report states: "The panel is in no doubt the university must have a strong School of Modern Languages and Cultures if we are to fulfil our ambitions to enhance our position as one of the world's great, broad-based, research intensive universities."

"The panel wishes to recommend the university retain a wide range of languages and takes steps to make their availability known to increased numbers of undergraduate students from all disciplines."

However, the future of staff and courses delivered through the Slavonic Studies programme, including Czech and Polish, is less clear.

The panel's report states: "The present staffing levels in Czech and Polish are a matter of serious concern to the panel, particularly in the light of staffing cuts elsewhere."

"The university must have a strong school of Modern Languages and Cultures if we are to fulfil our ambitions..."

levels and student numbers in other languages, and the poor research performance in Slavonic Languages."

One potential solution for the university would be to transfer an existing stand alone modern languages unit - which currently delivers lectures and evening courses to the public and business community - into the School of Modern Languages and Cultures.

The unit would then deliver all basic language teaching in Czech and Polish.

However, there is a concern the unit may not have the expertise to deliver the specialist teaching currently on offer. Courses that include culture could also be dropped.

Unions last night welcomed the majority of the proposals, but warned the university against any compulsory redundancies.

Dave Anderson, president of the Glasgow University branch of the UCU lecturers union, which represents academics, said: "We recognise the report's commitment to maintaining a strong School of Modern Languages and Cultures."

"However, the wider impact of any restructuring on the school's activities and profiles contribution to a number of degree programmes will have to be closely examined."

"Any compulsory redundancy and members will be vigorously resisted."

The temporary register follows an appeal to the University from the Royal College of Nursing Scotland, the professional body for nurses.



UNDER THREAT: Glasgow University principal has raised fears over the level of demand for nurses in the future. Picture: Colin Murray

## Stay of execution for nursing school

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**ANDREW DENHOLM**

THE threatened school of nursing at Glasgow University is to begin a day of execution. Plans to axe the department will be put on hold until after a national review of nursing education, which is to report next Spring.

A draft consultation report by a panel of university experts recommends institutions should be taken "until after the outcome of the Chief Nursing Officer's review of nursing and midwifery education".

The temporary register follows an appeal to the University from the Royal College of Nursing Scotland, the professional body for nurses.

However, the long-term future of the School of Nursing and Health Care is still in jeopardy. The panel's report says the school is not in line with the university's strategic aims of providing excellent research and encouraging interdisciplinary work.

"Substantial investment would be required to bring about significant change and this is not viable in the current economic situation," the report says.

One possible solution, however, would be if the school attracts greater levels of financial support from the Scottish Funding Council as a result of the Scotland-wide review.

If the skills are provided by Glasgow nursing education is seen as essential, certain facilities...

land's map of provision for higher education, the university should pursue the possibility of obtaining a commissioning place," the report adds.

Moves to close the school of nursing are part of wider cuts at Glasgow University. Professor Anton Mowat, the university principal, said there was concern over the level of demand for nurses in future, with some of an overcapacity.

In addition, he believes other universities such as Glasgow Caledonian already provide very effective training for nurses.

A spokesman for the Glasgow University branch of the UCU lecturers union said: "It would appear sensible to have second opinions for nursing within the university following the conclusions of the Scotland-wide review and to avoid duplicate very strong and already focused staff and resources."

One alternative is to have second opinions for nursing within the university following the conclusions of the Scotland-wide review and to avoid duplicate very strong and already focused staff and resources."



# Sit-in students vow to keep up cuts campaign

Protesters blast  
university bosses

By REBECCA GRAY

STUDENTS are furious after university bosses wrote to accuse them of "criminal" behaviour.

Bosses at the Univer-

sity of Glasgow issued a letter to all staff and students claiming a security guard was assaulted and there had been vandalism and criminal damage during the sit-in at the Hetherington Research Club.

The social club was taken over by students on February 1 in protest at its closure.

As reported in last night's Evening Times, David Newall, secretary of the university's governing court, said in a letter to students and staff that damage had been caused to the building.

He also claimed a guard was assaulted while trying to stop a drunk getting in.

He said: "The protest is affecting the safety and wellbeing of staff and students."

But the group of students - dubbed the Free Hetherington - hit back at the claims, calling them "seriously misleading and potentially defamatory", and vowed to continue their sit-in.

**The occupiers  
offered to pay  
for any repairs**

In response to Mr Newall's claims, the activists claimed: "On February 21, security staff informed members of the Free Hetherington that damage had been caused to doors between 13 and 11 University Gardens."

"The members of Free Hetherington strongly condemn the damage done to the doors, and the space upstairs."

"The occupiers informed the university security staff of the damage, and offered to pay for any repairs, but



■ The Free Hetherington students have occupied the club since February 1

this offer was refused by management."

A spokesman for the group added: "This email is their first and only response to the student and staff call for negotiation regarding the Hetherington and planned cuts to university services and courses."

"We contacted university management at the beginning of the occupation with our demands and did not receive a response."

"We were therefore surprised to receive an email from the senior management group directed not at the occupiers, but at all students and staff. We remain keen to meet with them."

The occupation of the Hetherington Research Club started on February 1 over proposed cuts

work, alongside several modern languages. Students also want the postgraduate social club, which shut last year amid financial problems, to reopen.

The University of Glasgow is currently looking at ways to address a funding deficit of £20 million over the next three years.

Last weekend, singer and activist Billy Bragg joined the student occupation after a performance at The Arches in Glasgow. He took the students some beer and they chatted.

that could close the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, which has 5000 students.

Funding may also be withdrawn for nursing, anthropology and social

**The university  
has a funding  
deficit of £20m**

## POLICE 'OVERKILL' AT UNI SIT-IN



*Police turned out in force as university security staff tried to end a sit-in staged by students angry about cutbacks*



**A WOMAN** was arrested after protesters gathered at a university yesterday during a bid to evict sit-in students.

Police were called to part of the University of Glasgow which has been occupied for seven weeks to protest over £20million cuts.

There were claims of police overkill. The Glasgow Student Representative Council said 80 officers with 18 vehicles and the Strathclyde force helicopter were used.

Police said the number of protesters had swelled to 150. Superintendent Nelson Telfer said: "No arrests were made during the protest. One female has been arrested for alleged obstruction. She was taken to hospital after feeling unwell."

The university said its security officers were trying to evict the protesting students as the building is to be refurbished.

Some students agreed to leave but some were still refusing to budge last night.



## Diary Esther Addley



Congratulations and hot showers, finally, to the group of students from Glasgow university who yesterday called off what, at 192 days, they believe is the longest student sit-in in British history. Protesters occupied the Hetherington postgraduate research club on 1 February, after Glasgow's principal Anton Muscatelli earmarked it and a number of key courses for closure. More than six months later he has backed down, promising a new postgrad club, no further cuts to courses and no compulsory redundancies at the university. It was too late to save Slavonic studies, alas, but the nursing, modern languages and archaeology departments have much to be thankful for.

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Clockwise from right, Kirsten Raftery, who is studying Slavonic studies and comparative literature; James Foley, a sociology student; Tamas Chaffers, a final-year music student at Glasgow University; and photographer Colin Meenan and Mare Turner



land does access, while Glasgow gets to go off and be a centre of excellence. There is a capital that comes with a degree from Glasgow that leads to the best jobs."

Naturally, the Scottish Government believes quality and equality are both achievable in the face of tighter budgets. In fact, according to Education Secretary Michael Russell, one breeds the other. He said: "I do not think the fact that Scotland's universities deliver tens of thousands of high-quality graduates into the world of work every year and carry out not just world-leading, but world-beating, research is unconnected to the long-standing belief in Scotland that access to education should be based on the ability to learn, not the ability to pay."

The reality is less straightforward. Acting on guidance from the Government to "protect research excellence", the last round of funding for Scottish universities saw the newer, less-research intensive universities - with more poorer students - take the biggest cut in funding. In contrast Edinburgh University, Scotland's top institution, saw its research grant actually rise.

With a Holyrood election in May the other Scottish political parties are also sharpening their vision of university priorities. The Conservatives believe "universities are there to be centres of excellence". The Liberal Democrats plan to make "mobility through education" a key part of their manifesto, but excellence of university education should not be compromised. Labour, the party which has spearheaded the drive to increase graduate numbers, said more could be done to widen access, a principle that must be protected.

Within the universities themselves the rhetoric is similar to the Government's. Glasgow University corporate communications director Susan Stewart said criticism from politicians, lecturers and students over proposals that appear to be pursuing excellence at the expense of access are "pretty dubious".

The university's priority was "to be inclusive, fulfil our civic duty to the city and encourage those who would not normally think about uni. We are proud there is no contradiction. We are one of the research elite and we also educate a significant number of first-generation uni students". Stewart admitted areas that don't fit in with the university's strategic vision would be threatened, but that access would not be threatened as a result. The adult education courses under threat, she said, were not those that normally attract people from non-traditional backgrounds.

The University of St Andrews is another elite university facing questions on its priorities. Stephen Magee, vice-principal for external relations, admitted that in the face of budget cuts "things that are not core to the university's mission will gradually be tightened and in some cases removed altogether".

Magee says each university should concentrate on what it is best at, be it part-time courses for disadvantaged students or a rock-class philosophy department.

"We put too much pressure on individual institutions to be equally good at everything," said Magee. "We all have responsibility for social inclusion, but differently. The sector has to differentiate, not individual institutions. We can't all be equally good, otherwise we'd all be average. And we cannot aspire to be average. I mean, how hopeless would that be?"

He added: "It is not good enough to say that the University of the West of Scot-

## The choice is simple: elite universities or free classes for students. It's time for Scotland to make up its mind

Report by Edd McCracken

THE University of Glasgow wears its egalitarian tradition proudly. The idea that higher education should be open to all, regardless of background, is etched into its fabric. The Hetherington Building, awarded annually to the university's top philosopher, bears the names of who first pronounced that university education is not just for the gifted few, but everyone with the brains to get there. This proud past collided with its

ambitious future last week. According to a new glossy 36-page brochure, the university's vision for the year 2020 is to "enhance its position as one of the world's great broad-based, research-intensive universities". The rationale is simple and brutal: in the 120 million cuts over three years proposed on Wednesday.

History classics, modern languages, social work and nursing departments, and the department of adult and continuing education - which widens access to university for the poorest in society - all face closure or merger. Budgets have been slashed and priorities are shifting. Compared to the world-class, grant-attracting departments

of physics, chemistry, accounting and computer science, these departments are heading for extinction. And so, the heirs of Hetherington and Jones would argue, social mobility is sacrificed for excellence. The rationale is simple and brutal: in these austere times, if a university wants to have a position on the world stage it has to focus on what it does best, at any cost. Dr Tom Steele, a senior honorary research fellow at the university's school of education, picked up the banner of widening access in an open letter. He wrote: "That the university... should now consider terminating its adult education provision, of which it should be justifiably proud, is a sad betrayal of this tradition of a democratic intellect and of the university's civic responsibility to the people of Glasgow, which it could well live to regret."

Funding cuts of up to 10% are forcing all Scotland's 21 universities and higher education colleges to sharply focus their raison d'être. Is their primary function to be an agent of social justice and mobility, or do they need to concentrate on competing with Oxford and Cambridge and the US Ivy League universities in research and innovation? Do we focus on equality or quality? "There is a massive tension between the social inclusion agenda on one hand and the global research agenda on the other,"

said Professor John Field, co-director of the Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning at the University of Stirling. "Glasgow, like a number of universities in the UK and internationally, is clearly focusing on the areas in which it has a reputation for high research standards. They'll be pushing into areas where they will get high fees from overseas students or in research grants."

But there is also an expectation on these world-class universities to welcome students from poor backgrounds. In England this dual, sometimes competing, expectation came to the fore last week. The Coalition Government confirmed that if Oxbridge failed to widen access to

disadvantaged students the universities could be fined £500,000. In Scotland, the National Union of Students wants an independent body to widen access. Scottish students do not pay tuition fees, unlike English ones, but the number of disadvantaged students at university has increased south of the Border and is stagnant here. In 2008-09, 3.7% of people in the most deprived areas of Scotland were at university, not much different from the peak of 3.7% in 2005-06. For Liam Burns, NUS Scotland's president, this is not good enough. Social engineering via positive discrimination should be considered.



20 13.02.11 Analysis



"It's so important to realise the incredible financial pressures"

### What students in Scotland think ...

**KIRSTEEN Redpath**, 35, from Govanhill, Glasgow, is studying Slavonic Studies and comparative literature at Glasgow University - her courses are now under threat.

"I think everybody is entitled to education at a high standard," she says. "Slavonic studies - Polish, Czech and Russian - could be saved, we don't know when yet. I'm going into third year - well, I would be."

"I got into university through the access course at the Department of Adult and Continuing Education - which they're threatening to scrap. I would never have got into university and I'm now a single student - that would never have happened if we didn't have that department. My quality of life, my confidence and my happiness - the difference is only."

"I'm not on a high wage and I've had to apply for a hardship fund this year as I've been struggling. I'm only part-time so I am paying fees of £450 a year - but when I am full-time I don't. I'm not entitled to a student loan so I'm currently working full-time as a support worker which is pretty hard going."

**TANAZ Ghaffaridh**, 24, originally from Iran, is a first-year music student at Glasgow University.

"The music department is very famous in Glasgow and my teachers advised me to go to Glasgow because of its reputation, and work with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

"Some of my class mates don't get in - it's not as easy as, for example, Napier University in Edinburgh. I got into Napier and they told me after my audition but Glasgow waited for a few weeks until they told me. I chose Glasgow as the degree is from Glasgow University and it's a better university than Napier and the course is much better. Glasgow University is known around the world."

"The standard is high but it's not as high a standard as a music school. They just want performers to play well. I don't have to pay fees which is really helpful. Any university should prioritise people who can't pay for it."

**ROBERT Gell**, 22, from Washington DC, is a first-year modern history student at St Andrews University.

"There's a stereotype that St Andrews is a very wealthy university but I've found it's quite balanced. I know the daughter of a banker and someone who's the daughter of a taxi driver."

"My fees are around £12,000 a year for tuition. It's still cheaper than a lot of US universities - George Washington University is \$22,000 a year."

"St Andrews is trying to get in the game a bit more. Its profile seems to have increased over the past few years and it needs to make sure its presence is felt in as many places across the world as possible. I think that's really important."

**ANDREW Craib** (above), 23, from Enniskerry, is a first-year nursing student at Glasgow Caledonian University.

"I think if Scottish universities were all too exclusive nobody could possibly go."

"If we bright students come to university a lot of them come from college which is an advantage over folk straight from high school as they have put in extra work and demonstrated that they actually want to learn - I just as if that's under-appreciated."

"On my course everyone's equal."

Everybody deserves to get the education they want. You need to go to a university that focuses on vocational courses to do my course - I think that's more valuable than perhaps going to a 3-2-name uni.

"Nursing students get a free education and a £500 bursary every month - you wouldn't be able to do it without the bursary as the course is quite full-time."

"I got five average Highers. I don't think I would have got into somewhere like St Andrews or Edinburgh."

"I don't think Caledonian should compete with other universities - it would lose its reputation of being a fair and inclusive environment, and they wouldn't be able to get the diversity of people if they adopted the rules and principles of those universities."

**ELIZABETH Brough**, 24, graduated with part honours in ancient history and biblical studies from St Andrews University in 2003.

"When I was applying it was the course rather than the reputation of the institution that concerned me. Places like St Andrews should absolutely help disadvantaged students more."

"It's so important to realise the incredible financial pressures on current students, with expensive tuition fees as well as St Andrews' 'bubble economy' which entails crazy high accommodation prices and living expenses."

"Although the university does fund scholarships, many through alumni donations, there are not enough of them and they only contribute to, rather than cover, accommodation prices, which are now more than £5000 in university halls."

"I received a means-tested grant in my first year of £500 and worked at three different jobs during university. The majority of my friends also juggled academic work, and paid work."

"It is the job of the university to promote what they have on offer for anyone who has the potential, and not uphold an air of exclusivity."

"This ensures that the intake is of the best quality, and by default this helps people from all sorts of backgrounds."

The university has the task of encouraging excellence and competing globally."

**JAMES Feley**, 25, from Shawlands in Glasgow, is a first-year sociology student at Glasgow University and candidate for university president. He took part in last year's student protests at Milbank in London.

"Essentially 25% of the course on offer at honours level are going to go."

"There's no contradiction whatsoever between excellence in research and producing excellent students, and trying to help the disadvantaged."

"There's a vast talent pool of people who can't afford to go to university. This is an overall question about how we actually take our future. Do we see Scotland being an economy that is going to produce excellent people that we take us into the next era, or do we see the economy as essentially a low-wage dumping ground for globalisation where we can't show up some place for a while which will subsequently move ahead as soon as everybody starts asking for a living wage?"

"I want to comprehensive school."

"My parents work in education. I haven't struggled financially to get into university. I've struggled financially at university. Overall, I'm among the better off people."

Interviews by Sarah Swain

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# Westend protest against uni cuts

by Gillian Loney

STUDENTS and lecturers have rallied together in opposition to the cuts proposed by Glasgow university bosses.

The anti-cuts was called yesterday to discuss the cuts - which could cost £20 million by 2012/13, which include cutting student union funding and raising adult education evening classes, social work, anthropology and - most controversially - nursing.

The total money saved from it all would amount to £3m - which campaigners say leaves the doors open for more services withdrawal.

Those in opposition held a public meeting at the Queen Margaret Union (QMU) on

Friday before staging a demonstration outside the court meeting yesterday.

Speakers at the event included representatives from the Student Representative Council (SRC), both student unions, the Anti Cuts Action Network and the recent Healthcare Campaign.

John Smith, QMU president, said: "Glasgow is unique, having two student unions and four student bodies, and I think that's a status quo which needs to be preserved."

"The main issue with the cuts we're looking at - 11 to 15 per cent - is that it sets a dangerous precedent for future years."

Tommy Gore, SRC president and the student representative at yesterday's court meeting, commented: "We

good to see support from across the uni and not just in the departments affected by cuts. If nursing goes who's to say another department won't be next?"

"I'm an optimist. This is our opportunity to argue the case for the areas they're proposing to cut."

"It's our chance to show them why they're wrong, and we have to group it."

And postgraduate student and tutor Tom Coles, representing the present group occupying the Hetherington research club, spurred on audience applause with "I want to be an academic - I don't want to work for a university that worries more about how much courses make than the standard of work and education."

"This is not a battle we have to give up on, but we have to have unity between the student body and staff - including in strike action against management."

"We can win this fight".

The proposals put forward by senior management at yesterday's court meeting at the Queen Margaret Union (QMU) on



Protesters gathered at Glasgow university yesterday to demonstrate against proposed cutbacks.

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## Canniesburn Care Home Welcome Home



Canniesburn Care Home is a purpose built facility that has been designed and equipped to fully comply with all the latest National Care Standards, whilst providing a high standard of comfort and safety for its residents.

Canniesburn's main aim is to promote a service focused on our customers by encouraging and enabling residents to become involved in the running of their own home.

We are arranging a Have Night in the near future for all to join in and have a fun evening.

Mother's Day is always a full fun day for our residents with entertainment & visitors.

Easter Sunday is packed with egg-siters special events.

Every resident has a special birthday party on their special day.

From April our residents have a chance to go "down the water" on monthly canal trips from Kirkcaldy.

Our Summer and Christmas Festies are always full of fun and involvement by all residents.

We have entertainers who perform for our residents and local school children and churches visit regularly.

And our fortnightly quiz "Canniesburn's Got Talent" competition later on in the year, where all residents, relatives and staff have a chance to showcase their talent.

Our entertainment list is endless and all residents have a fun active stay at Canniesburn!

Enquiries to Margaret Callaghan 0141 943 2003

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# Expert in attack on university course cut plans

Astronomer Royal says move would do irreparable damage

## EXCLUSIVE

ANDREW DENHOLM  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Astronomer Royal for Scotland is the latest public figure to attack controversial proposals by Glasgow University to cut courses as part of moves to save £20 million.

In a letter to The Herald, Professor John C Brown describes moves to cut adult education courses as "folly".

And he said that without the work of the Department of Adult and Continuing Education (Dace) he would not have been able to pursue his career in astronomy.

The attack comes just a day after Glasgow University's ruling court approved a consultation on the cuts, which also affect nursing, modern languages, anthropology and social work.

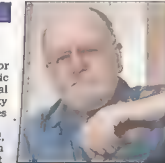
The proposed cuts have already been criticised by Oscar-winning playwright Sir Tom Stoppard, actor, comedian and television presenter Stephen Fry and award-winning novelist AL Kennedy.

Mr Brown said: "I was gobsmacked to hear of the senior management group request to court to initiate a review of whether to retain Dace activities."

"In terms of the public perception of Glasgow University, Dace activities have always been enormously important and any serious attack on them will do untold damage."

"An item high on the current agenda of the Royal Society of Edinburgh is how to remote public awareness of search and to engage the public at large. How can one publicly engage a public void of access to adult education?"

Writing on his own experience, Mr Brown added: "Dace did not exist in 1963. I was born in 1963. I was brought up in a very poor home in Dumbarton to ... a Dace astronomy class."



GOBSMACKED: Professor John C Brown was shocked by the move.

"So I urge you not to commit this folly, driven by who knows what. To cut or close Dace will not save money, but will do irreparable damage to Glasgow University and to the west of Scotland."

A spokesman for Glasgow University said the institution was responding in a planned and strategic way to unprecedented financial pressures.

Last year, Anton Muscatelli, the university principal, warned the institution could run out of

**“Had Dace not existed, I would not be what I am ... I urge you not to commit this folly, driven by who knows what”**

money by 2013 if officials took no action to address cuts in public funding.

In addition to course cuts the university is seeking to find significant savings through a voluntary severance scheme.

And all non-academic departments such as estates, libraries, student support, human resources, finance and corporate communications will have to find cuts of between 11% and 16%.

Following the consultation, the proposals will be brought



TAKING TO THE STREETS: Glasgow University students went on the march to show their anger over the proposed cuts. Pictures: Gordon Tiers

back to another meeting of court in May.

Meanwhile, Mr Muscatelli has reiterated concerns he voiced in January that the higher education sector is facing a £360m shortfall by 2014-15 as a result of public funding cuts and an

increase in tuition fees south of the Border.

Mr Muscatelli - in line with the view of Universities Scotland announced last year - believes the only way to bridge the funding gap is through a graduate contribution.

"We either maintain ourselves as a sector which competes as one of the best in the world or we are going to have to find some other industry that's going to fill the gap of £1 billion which the sector generates for the Scottish economy," he said.

"That is what Scotland is going to miss out on. It can't see why, now that it's lost the banks, it wants to lose its last world-class sector as well."

Letters: Pages 18 and 19

!!

“The first few years at uni, I was struggling with the apathetic feel on campus. I’m much happier now

#### 4. The protest baby

KATE CONNELLY, 21

IT’S nearly 2pm on February 16 and theology and religious studies undergraduate Kate Connelly is at the head of an anti-cuts demonstration at Glasgow University, where she is studying. She seems relaxed, shouting out chants of “No life, no bits, no education cuts”, her gestures dance-like in their rhythm.

Connelly can’t remember a time when protest wasn’t part of her life. The first time she feels she really actively participated was on a Stop the War march against the invasion of Iraq. Standing outside her school, her father handed her the megaphone to call her fellow pupils out. “Teachers were standing at the doors blocking everyone and I stood in the road telling them not to listen, to just walk out anyway.”

Her father, James Connelly, a one-time member of the Rebel Clown Army, campaigned on a huge range of issues throughout her childhood and she recalls days spent aged six on the Pollok Free State, protesting against the extension of the M77 in Glasgow. At 16, she gave a speech on stage with Tommy Sheridan in George Square. Currently she is spending her nights, and some of her days, at the Hetherington Research Club in Glasgow, where students are staging an occupation.

The night before we speak, she had intended to go to bed at 11pm but ended up staying up till 5am talking about feminism. “The first few years of my time at uni, I was struggling with the apathetic feel just on campus generally. Now it feels like people are waking up and being able to get involved. I’m much happier now.”



#### 6. The full-time Nimby

DENISE DAVIS, 44

SINCE last July, when she started campaigning against the proposal for a wind farm in the forest at Drum Ba near her home at Whitehouse in Glen Conval in Invernesshire, artist Denise Davis has stopped painting and quit the degree course she had been taking. She now devotes around six hours a day, seven days a week, to protesting against both the local project and, via the Wind Farm Action Group, other developments.

“It’s taken over my life. I don’t talk about anything else. And I don’t get paid anything either. It’s all-consuming and exhausting.”

A self-confessed angry and opinionated person, she has a history that includes hunt sabotage and campaigning against the ban on live exports. Her husband was arrested on one such protest at Shoreham in Sussex but this is the first time it has been all about something in her own back yard and the first time she has led a campaign.

“They want to do what they call key-holing where they cut down trees and put the turbines into these patches of clearance,” she says. “It’s particularly devastating.”



#### 7. The book keeper

MIKE WILLIAMSON, 22

WHEN Mike Williamson talks about who he is, he doesn’t mention left or right. Instead, he describes himself as a humanist. He had been a Catholic in his youth. The Spanish and Portuguese student at Edinburgh University is the son of conservative Catholics, and voted Liberal Democrat at the last election. His journey towards activism, however, began when he was 16 and he campaigned, successfully, against the closure of a local library.

Williamson wasn’t at Millbank. “I’m a poor student,” he says. “I have to work on the weekends.” Even during the occupation at Edinburgh University in November, he recalls that he studied most evenings while others sat up talking.

Currently, in between studies and activism, he is campaigning for a sabbatical post as vice-president of academic affairs with the Students’ Union. With UK Uncut, he is part of an increasingly organised campaign to occupy banks and shops in a bid to draw attention to what campaigners believe is an alternative to cuts: clawing back corporate tax avoidance.

One of us, usually me, will stand in front and give passes by a lecture on why we’re doing it. Then we’ll kind of move on. While the police may be trying to stop us, at the end of the day they’re going to be facing cuts as well. We don’t want to make their job more difficult. We’re not against them. They’re nice people.”



# Students to find out today if 140-day protest has stayed axe

Anxious protesters await university court's vote on cuts, reports  
**Lindsay McIntosh**

**T**hey have been there for 140 days and, during that time, a certain routine has been established by the students occupying offices at the University of Glasgow in protest at the cuts that threaten their courses.

Outside, giant, hand-painted signs declaring "No Cuts" hang from the Hetherington Research Centre. Inside, the rooms are neat and tidy, with sleeping quarters upstairs, and a kitchen — "Vegan only" reads the sign — downstairs. There is a well-organised cleaning rota; during the day there have been lectures, social events and protest meetings.

Today, however, the occupation comes to a head, when the university court votes on proposals to close courses and departments. The protest will end — though whether in triumph or defeat has yet to be seen.

Any sense of serenity is illusory, for the occupation has been a fraught one.

Two months in, violence flared as police attempted to evict the protesters. Arrests, hospital admissions and a stand-off at the senate followed, and then the students were allowed to return. Since then the protest has become something of an institution. Ken Leach and Billy Bragg have dropped by.

The building was previously a union for post-graduate, international and mature students but closed its doors about 18 months ago. In February, eight of those who had frequented the building decided to take it back and sneaked in through a fire exit.

They were protesting against the closure and about looming cuts that, when they were revealed, left the students stunned — £20 million of savings as the axe fell on adult education, languages, nursing, the Drugs Misuse Centre and other courses.

Among the departments under threat was adult education — a cause dear to the Hetherington group. A history student, John Yorkshire, 34, says he was only able to study because of such departments.

"To me, that's the most disgraceful aspect of it all," he said. "Universities



Student protestor Ryan McCoo whiles away the hours during the occupation of the Hetherington building

have a wider responsibility to the community rather than just having business students coming and paying however much a year."

The protests have prompted concerns about the way universities in Scotland are governed, and Michael Russell, the Education Secretary, has announced a review. He has publicly crossed swords with the University of Glasgow principal, Anton Muscatelli.

The Hetherington students reject the idea that it is up to management to decide how to take universities forward. Alice Coy, 32, a public health post-graduate, said: "It's a recent idea that it would be up to senior management rather than academic staff. Traditionally, universities have been run by academics and students."

She believes that the court has become less academically-minded and increasingly concerned "about what suits business interests in Glasgow".

The protest is in solidarity with Strathclyde University, where there are proposals to shut music, education, geography and sociology courses, and with the University of Glasgow's Crichton

Campus, in Dumfries, where the liberal arts course is under threat.

Cris Aston, 20, who studies at the Crichton, said the consultation, which took place in semester time when students were revising, had been appalling. She believes that the liberal arts course is doomed without an intervention from the Scottish Government.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Russell sent a message to the universi-

## 'Universities have a wider responsibility to the community'

ty court: "There needs to have been... the widest consultation with the community of the university in the widest sense, and I think that must inform their decision making. I accept the autonomy, of course, of the universities but they also have to look at themselves as institutions having broad purpose and how they fulfil that."

The protesters may have had some effect. They secured a mass meeting

with Professor Muscatelli. Modern language courses, other than Slavonic studies, have been saved, as have archaeology and classics. Nursing has a one-year reprieve. The overall consultation was also extended.

A university spokeswoman said: "We are keen to engage with the students in the Hetherington and are awaiting their response. The university is keen to develop the Hetherington as a space to enhance the academic experience for our students."

Josy Shewell Brockway, 24, who studied mathematics, believes that the appetite for the protest was a reaction to years of quiet and galvanised by events following the General Election.

"I think something like this has been building for some time — not just on this campus, but UK-wide," she said.

Yet not all students are in favour of the protest. One young male student at the nearby medical school, who asked not to be named, told *The Times*: "I'm fed up of them. I think they should get back to studying. There are 16,000 students at Glasgow and those protesting are a minority."

## PAGE 24 SOCIETY

THE HERALD FREE PRESS 23.08.2011

# Society

## That fighting spirit



**Men in black: what's happening in the public sector**

THE PUBLIC SECTOR is a vast and complex world, but it's one that's been in the news a lot lately. From the NHS to the police, from the fire service to the local council, there's a lot of activity going on. And it's not all bad news. In fact, there's a lot of good news too. But to understand what's really going on, you need to know a bit about the men in black who are running the show.

### Trust offers career hopes for youths

THE PUBLIC'S Trust Scotland, a charity that helps young people find their way in the world, has launched a new scheme to help them get started in the public sector. The scheme, called 'Public Sector Careers', is aimed at young people aged 16-25 who are looking for a career in the public sector. It offers them a range of opportunities, from internships to apprenticeships, and even full-time jobs. The scheme is run by the Public Sector Careers Trust, which is a partnership between the public sector and the private sector. It's a great way for young people to gain experience and skills in the public sector, and it's a great way for the public sector to attract new talent.

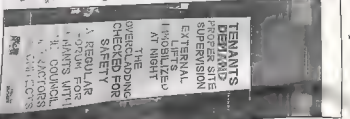
### Study targets dementia

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At 100 years old, the North Edinburgh branch of the Gannett Foundation is still going strong. Pictured: Alex Wood, the foundation's director, with some of the staff.

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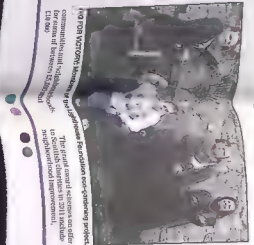


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## Gannett Foundation ready to boost charities

### Local news

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## Students forced out



**STUDENTS** occupying a university building in a protest over cuts were evicted by police yesterday.

The students took over the Hetherington Postgraduate Research Club building at Glasgow University seven weeks ago.

Yesterday around 20 police cars and vans blocked off part of the campus as a

helicopter circled above and dogs were brought in.

And one 19-year-old student was taken away in an ambulance with what her friend said was concussion.

One protester, 21-year-old theology student Henry Bell, said: "This is way over the top and the helicopter is absurd."

But a police spokesman dismissed claims officers were heavy-handed.

# The Extra

Just a Priced Copy - 10p Tel: 0141 427 7070 Local 1233 April 14th 2005

## Tuition fee demo arrests

Teenagers in custody over December protest

By Gillian Loney

**PROTESTERS** as young as 14 have been arrested this week for their involvement in a Glasgow demonstration against tuition fees.

A total of three arrests were made on Friday morning during the December protest, which took place outside the city's main police station.

At the same time, a second charge of breach of the peace was brought.

Students in support of the free tuition campaign have been arrested in a police station in Glasgow. The teenagers, who were taken into custody on Friday, each on a charge of breaching the peace.

The arrests followed the arrest of a student, David O'Hare, who was found guilty of public order at Glasgow's police court on Monday.

A spokesman for the Education Scotland campaign said that the group was not involved in a dedicated action, but that they were protesting in a peaceful manner.

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ARRESTED: A 22-year-old man is due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court on charges of assault.

## Clegg attacked with blue paint



NICKY BIRD / News Group

NICKY BIRD, 22, said he was hit on the head with a can of blue paint when he was attacked by a group of men in Glasgow.

The 22-year-old was hit on the head with a can of blue paint when he was attacked by a group of men in Glasgow.

A spokesman for Mr. Clegg said: "Mr. Clegg was not injured and is due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court today. Mr. Clegg told authorities: 'These things happen. It's not a big deal.'"

Nicky Bird, three children under to be not arrested on a head of paint.

The 22-year-old was hit on the head with a can of blue paint when he was attacked by a group of men in Glasgow.

A 22-year-old man was arrested and is due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court today. Mr. Clegg told authorities: "These things happen. It's not a big deal."

## Lead in flat

A lead pipe has been found in a flat in Glasgow. The pipe was found in a room in the flat. The pipe was found in a room in the flat. The pipe was found in a room in the flat.

## Zoo's visit

A group of children visited the zoo. The children were taken to the zoo by their parents. The children were taken to the zoo by their parents. The children were taken to the zoo by their parents.



GARY BIRD, 22, said he was hit on the head with a can of blue paint when he was attacked by a group of men in Glasgow.

## Hillwa, 73, robs

A 73-year-old man was arrested and is due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court today. Mr. Clegg told authorities: "These things happen. It's not a big deal."

# After 50 days, police storm the barricades



MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN

It's only two months, they say, and a peaceful protest with officers as well as help from the police. But a group of students who have occupied a building at Glasgow University campus as a protest against planned cuts in student support have been ordered to leave.



"The occupiers left the building peacefully"

Glasgow University spokesman said the students had been ordered to leave the building after 50 days of occupation. The students had been occupying the building since January 2006, protesting against planned cuts in student support.

The "Free Indignance" collective and student leaders, accused of being "barricade" and "barricade" in the following 50 days, began by firing off a letter to the police, asking for support during a late-night vote. While the police gave the students a warning, they refused to back off the road.

The students gathered around the front and the rest of the building, carrying banners of opposition. As police stepped up their efforts, about 30 officers were called in, along with the fire's dog team. A helicopter was used to drop tear gas, which was used to clear the road.

The students, however, refused to move. They turned up, and before long the police made their way through a human chain into the building. Inside, their chief spokesman said it was a "peaceful" occupation. He said the protesters were not using force, and that the police were not using force either.

The students, however, refused to move. They turned up, and before long the police made their way through a human chain into the building. Inside, their chief spokesman said it was a "peaceful" occupation. He said the protesters were not using force, and that the police were not using force either.



More pictures: Police dogs are used at the demonstration building. It is surrounded by about 50 officers who are lined up.

Above: The students on the wall as students occupy the university staff and police move in. Below: A group of supporters gather outside the building to try to prevent the police from getting inside to evict the students.

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## Feeling lonely? Have a bacon sandwich and ice-cream

CLARE BAILEY

COMFORT foods, such as a strong cup of tea and a bacon sandwich, are good for you, experts now believe. Although sugary foods may

be bad for the waistline, they can boost your mood and energy. New research suggests certain types of food that comfort people and boost their energy levels, such as chocolate, can be good for you.

Psychologists at the University of Hull suggest that if you feel lonely, you should eat a chocolate bar. They say that chocolate can boost your mood and energy.

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## THESSALONIKI 4 WALK FREE!

### Political activists win massive victory in court

The appeal trial of the four European political activists, including UK anarchist Simon Chapman, ended with vindication of the defendants, who walked free after a long and fraught eight year battle against prosecution by the Greek state. The six-day trial was the climax to one of the most important solidarity campaigns for a UK anarchist in recent years, who, along with six other comrades, had been fitted up by the Greek state over the riots during the anti-capitalist EU Summit protests in Thessaloniki in 2003.

The four have effectively won their appeal against their convictions, which held sentences ranging from five to eight and a half years. All the initial charges were dropped, apart from "distinguished defiance of authority" which was then reduced to "minor defiance of authority" a misdemeanour, carrying a six-month suspended sentence.

According to legal sources in Greece this was the best the juries could ever do, since they had to be charged of something in order to justify the six months they had already spent in prison back in 2003. The final verdict was three judges against, four jurors in favour of the defendants.

page 3 ►►

### LENS CAP BOLD AND BRAVEHEARTED



Students and activists, including members of the Anarchist Federation, have re-occupied Glasgow university. Again. The popular Hetherington Research Club, which was closed by university management to sell off, has been re-opened for use by students and staff as part of the campaign against fees and cuts, and the demand for free education.

## NO BRIBING? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

For the second time in less than a year, the bribery law that was supposed to have been brought in to stop BAE from repeating its 'buy one get one backhanders free' approach to commerce has been delayed.

What's notable about this is that even elements of the ruling class are running out of patience with the state's faltering about, with the *Financial Times* noting that "to delay once was unfortunate ... the delay twice looks like recalcitrance."

However there are good reasons why the state might wish to hold out against pressure from US and EU countries which have been losing business – its companies have been making a great deal of money out of the whole thing.

Figures from the defence industry to construction firms have been lining up to call the new rules on graft 'too vague', attacking them in particular

for demanding that companies stop sending buttering people up in exchange for a bit of action.

On the domestic level, it's likely that gratuities (where you treat someone to something they can't afford rather than pay them direct) will be taken off the list of "things which could unduly influence people".

The next set of revisions will now look at the excuse 'but they're all doing it' before coming to a conclusion later in the year.

New laws are unlikely to significantly impact on the amount of bribery practiced by some of the world's biggest companies however. Internationally, an investigation into BAE's large-scale buying off of bureaucrats in their quest to self-arm was successfully quashed by Tony Blair on the grounds their actions were "in the national interest."

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ISSN 0016-0504



# University bows to pressure and puts cuts plans on hold

## EXCLUSIVE

**ANDREW DENHOLM**

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Scottish university has put off a decision on a controversial programme of cuts until after the formation of a new Scottish Government.

Glasgow University's ruling Court agreed unanimously to the delay after an outcry from staff and students and an unprecedented intervention from Michael Russell, the Education Secretary.

The move comes after Strathclyde University in Glasgow became the latest Scottish institution to be embroiled in controversy over cuts to courses and staff. The institution

is facing a vociferous reaction to proposals to axe a raft of cultural activities.

Following a meeting of Glasgow University Court yesterday, a spokeswoman for the institution said: "Court has decided to extend the period of consultation from May and will not take any decisions before its meeting in June."

It was under fire because the original decision was set for May 11 – just six days after the Holyrood election.

With the major political parties running neck-and-neck, it is highly unlikely the political make-up of a new government – or its policies on funding higher education – will be known by then.

It was also argued the consultation on the proposals – which could



**MICHAEL RUSSELL:**  
Called for a halt to cuts plans during a visit to Glasgow University last month.

result in cuts to modern languages, nursing and adult education – was not long enough to explore alternative options.

Now the decision will be taken at a meeting of the university's ruling Court on June 22 – six weeks after the election.

The move was welcomed by UCU Scotland, the lecturers' union. It, along with the powerful university Senate – which represents academics – had called for a delay.

Dave Anderson, president of the Glasgow University branch of the UCU, said: "We welcome the decision to extend the consultation and we hope that Court will take full account of the view of staff and students and recognise the importance of the threatened areas to the institution."

"There had been concerns from the outset that the timetable set for the consultation was unrealistic. That was a view shared by both students and academic staff through the Senate."

"The decision will now be taken at a time when the funding position in Scotland becomes clearer."

Glasgow's proposals, which will make combined savings of some £3 million, are part of a wider strategy to find £20m in savings by 2012/13.

Last year, Anton Muscatelli, the principal, warned the institution could run out of money by 2013 if it took no action to address cuts in public funding.

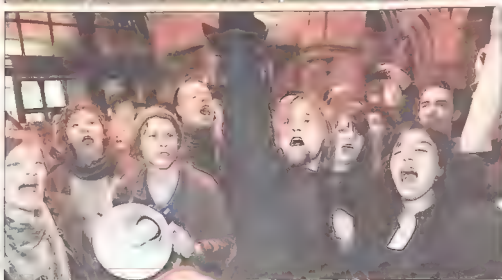
In addition to course cuts, the university is seeking to find significant savings through a voluntary severance scheme across the institution as a whole.

However, at a meeting in March, the university Senate – which governs all academic matters – said no decisions should be taken until after a new Scottish Government has

**Continued on Page 2**



University bosses allow evicted protesters back into club



## STUDENTS IN CLASHES WITH COPS



Clashes took place as students moved to Senate building

By LAURICHA STEWART

STUDENTS evicted from Glasgow University after a 96-day occupation were allowed back less than 24 hours after being removed. Dozens of students occupied the Hetherington Club nearly two months ago in protest at proposed course cuts designed to save £10million by 2015. Yesterday protesters were removed from the building in the "by Gardens, in a 12-hour operation in which up to 100 police officers, dogs and a helicopter. Hetherington students gathered around the entrance with all eyes on the arrival of the Senate building.

By STEWART PATTERSON

STUDENTS demonstrated against education cuts outside the Scottish Parliament yesterday. Almost 200 protesters, including many from Glasgow, gathered outside Holyrood on the last day of the Parliament. The students issued speeches from podiums promising they will not introduce tuition fees in Scotland. But last night in a bid to force the Senate to leave the building, protesters offered to allow a 12-hour operation in which up to 100 police officers, dogs and a helicopter. Hetherington students gathered around the entrance with all eyes on the arrival of the Senate building.

Capital protest looks for election pledges

Loose Burns, MSP Scot and president, said "We need to look at how we can improve the financial here we offer our poorest students. "About 400 students will be calling on all parties to maintain graduate numbers and improve student support. A 100,000 demonstration is due to take place in London this Saturday. Several protesters have filed complaints.

There were three people. In the "by Gardens, in a 12-hour operation in which up to 100 police officers, dogs and a helicopter. Hetherington students gathered around the entrance with all eyes on the arrival of the Senate building.

## HOME NEWS

## THE BIG FIGHTBACK

## WEST MIDLANDS

## Warwickshire police hint at prospect of strike action

POLICE in Warwickshire hinted at the prospect of industrial action yesterday in the face of massive cuts being proposed by the coalition.

Warwickshire Police Federation and West Midlands Unions released a joint statement opposing the Con-Dem cuts programme of the police and police staff.

And federation chairman Simon Payne refused to rule out strike action, saying only that his organisation was "considering all future options to ensure that our members are protected."

"The perfect storm is now taking place within the service," he added.

Unions regional organiser Charlie Sarell said that has members in the police sector no longer had confidence in the coalition government.

"The bond of trust between them and those we represent has been broken," he said.

"Warwickshire Police have had a massive cut to its budget which will mean fewer police officers and PCSOs on the streets and huge redundancies among my members."

"Unions has held meetings with local MPs to explain this."

"My members will be attending the demonstration in London this Saturday in support of all public services."



## GLASGOW

## Police storm Glasgow occupation

by John Millington  
Campaigns Reporter

POLICE were entering the main senate building in Glasgow University as the Morning Star went to press last night in a mob-handed attempt to evict multiple campus occupations.

Students had been giving constables the runaround since yesterday morning when the order was given to turf them out of the "Free

Hetherington" anti-cuts occupation, which has been running for seven weeks.

University authorities have become increasingly frustrated with the campaign to save a research centre on campus from being sold off and initially ordered security personnel to evict the student occupiers.

However following resistance police were called in to carry out the eviction.

After being dragged out of the building using what wit-

nesses called "heavy-handed tactics," occupiers rallied and marched into the senate building later in the day, taking over fourth-floor offices.

Eyewitnesses told the Morning Star that up to 100 police were present with dogs as the evictions took place — and hundreds of student protesters stood outside in solidarity with the occupiers.

Unconfirmed reports suggested four had been arrested, with two injured and one person suffering a concussion.

One of the last occupiers to be evicted, who did not want to be named, said that the action had "proven collective organisation can resist cuts. We have done it for six to seven weeks and it was activist-based."

Although initially called as an anti-cuts protest, the long-running occupation has also begun work to support for UCU lecturers going on strike across Britain.

John@peoples-press.com



## LONDON

## Demo will be 'biggest in a generation'

THE TUC demonstration on Saturday will be the biggest labour movement mobilisation in a generation, the BNT declared yesterday.

The union, which represents 90,000 members in transport and maritime industries, said that people from as far as Port William would descend on London for the peaceful protest in opposition to the Con-Dem austerity drive.

General secretary Bob Crow said: "No-one should underestimate the importance of this demonstration."

"Our members and others in the trade union movement are determined to make sure we send the right message to the Con-Dem government — that they halt the cuts."

"Employers are seeking these changes because it will be cheaper for them and more expensive for us."

John@peoples-press.com

## EDUCATION

## Lecturers strike to defend pension scheme

Academics take to picket lines across England

by John Millington  
Campaigns Reporter

UNIVERSITY lecturers across England took to the picket lines yesterday in defence of their pensions.

UCU members at 47 English universities walked out on strike in a clear message to bosses trying to impose changes to their pension scheme.

Under the plans their final-salary pension scheme would be replaced by an inferior career-average scheme.

Workers would also have to pay higher contributions and work for longer.

Lay reps from across the country

were eager to get the message out that they had been left no choice but to go on strike.

Bath Spa UCU branch chairman John Newinger, a history professor, said: "Strike action is always a last resort but the attacks on pensions and pay have created real anger through- out the sector and instead of burying their heads in the sand the employers need to respond urgently to our concerns."

"Staff are sick to the back teeth of being told that their pay and pensions need to be cut to pay for an economic crisis created by others."

"Staff are sick to the back teeth of being told that their pay and pensions need to be cut to pay for an economic crisis created by others."

And spokesmen for the UCU at the

University of East Anglia Dr Paul Grasby said: "If the changes are made now they might affect people for decades and decades to come, so it's important that we get it right now."

"That's why we want the employers to start talks and go to arbitration to make sure it's absolutely right."

Others were eager to highlight the support of local students' unions for the UCU action.

Cambridge University UCU vice-president David Goode heaped praise on the university students' union for its "very supportive" stance after it passed a motion declaring: "We support our lecturers."

Speaking from the picket line, Mr Goode said there had been a very good turnout from UCU members.

Mr Goode added that UCU members had won a minor first victory with implementation of the new scheme being postponed from April 1.

"Everybody wants to have negotiations — the only ones who don't want to talk are the Employers Pension Forum," he said.

"Our pension scheme as it stands is viable and affordable."

"Employers are seeking these changes because it will be cheaper for them and more expensive for us."

John@peoples-press.com

Tell us your fightback tales! Send photos and stories to



# The Herald

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2011

EXCLUSIVE

## Glasgow University plan to axe courses



### Radical proposals as part of bid to save £20 million

ANDREW DENHOLM and  
DAVID LEASK

A LEADING Scottish university has drawn up plans to scrap or merge a raft of courses as part of moves to save £20 million over the next five years.

The controversial proposals from Glasgow University include the merging of history, archaeology and classics and the scrapping of several modern languages.

Other courses to face the axe include nursing, anthropology and social work, and the university is also asking a review of its health practice Centre for Drugs Misuse Research.

The university is in a serious drive to cut costs as a result of a decision to scrap or merge a raft of courses as part of moves to save £20 million over the next five years.

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Continued on Page 2

# UNIVERSITY PRINCIPAL FIRE FROM HIS OWN ACADEMICS



## EXCLUSIVE

ANDREW DENHOLM

AROUND 200 academic staff at a cash-strapped university have attacked the way theirs and other higher education institutions are being run.

In the latest twist in an increasing bitter battle over spending cuts, the group of professors and researchers at Glasgow University have written to Scottish ministers calling for greater democracy within universities

and a cap on the salaries of senior officials.

The attack follows controversial plans by the university to axe modern languages, nursing, anthropology and social work. It is also considering cutting back its provision of evening and weekend classes.

Since the cuts were publicised, the university and its principal, Professor Anton Muscatelli, above, have been inundated with letters from concerned graduates and academics from around the world. The Glasgow academ-

ics argue universities are increasingly controlled by small groups of officials out of touch with the rest of the university.

And they warn of the "substantial increase" in the proportion of university funds being spent on administration.

The submission, part of a consultation on higher education, also calls for a review of the salaries of senior managerial staff with a view to capping salaries in future.

Full story: Page 5

Pictures: Kirsty Anderson

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# Staff back students over university protest eviction

New sit-in at offices after force is used to end club's occupation

## EXCLUSIVE

MARTIN WILLIAMS and ANDREW DENHOLM

A GROUP of nearly 100 academics last night condemned as "excessive and unnecessary" an operation to evict 15 student protesters from part of Glasgow University.

In response to the eviction, 10 times as many students were occupying part of the university administration block last night.

The eviction from the Hetherington Research Club at the university led to scenes of unprecedented protest within one of Britain's oldest higher education institutions.

Up to 200 students converged on the offices of Anton Muscatelli, the principal and vice-chancellor, before 150 occupied part of the university's administrative nerve centre in protest.

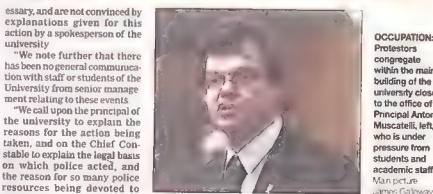
They remained there last night after providing a list of demands to university security. Earlier, up to 100 police officers had been called in by university security staff leading to the forced eviction of the students.

It happened after officials decided their two-month occupation of the club in protest at education cuts should come to an end.

Professor Muscatelli is preening over a controversial restructuring programme to save £20 million which has led to mass protests among students and staff. He is now facing a fresh crisis dealing with students in revolt and now academics who are backing them.

A fiercely critical statement signed at short notice last night by nearly 100 professors and researchers at the university said they wanted to disassociate themselves from the events and asked why it was felt necessary.

"We believe that the action taken was excessive and unne-



**OCCUPATION:** Protesters congregated within the main building of the university close to the office of Principal Anton Muscatelli, left, who is under pressure from students and academic staff. *Martin Williams*

cessary, and are not convinced by explanations given for this action by a spokesperson of the university.

"We note further that there has been no general communication with staff or students of the University from senior management relating to these events.

We call upon the principal of the university to explain the reasons for the action being taken, and on the Chief Constable to explain the legal basis on which police acted, and the reason for so many police resources being devoted to this action.

"We would also like the principal to clarify who will pay for this action. We do not think that such actions are consistent with the principles of free and open debate that are the lifeblood of a university."

Academics at the university

have already launched an attack on the running of higher education institutions, including their own. Some 200 professors and researchers signed a paper calling for greater democracy and a cap on the salaries of senior officials, which have spiralled in recent years. In January, it emerged university principals across Scotland were awarded pay increases of up to 7% last year, despite public funding cuts. Professor Muscatelli earns more than £200,000 a year.

"In practice, the powers of both Court and Senate have been eroded by the emergence of executive management groups, within which strategic decisions are made in the absence of widespread consultation," the paper stated.

"These decisions are then reported to the governing bodies

Glasgow has drawn up a list of proposed cuts, including the axing of modern languages, nursing, anthropology and social work.

It is also considering cutting back its provision of evening and weekend classes, which cater for up to 5000 adult learners a year.

Drawing on their view of how Glasgow is run, the academics argued universities are increasingly controlled by small groups of officials out of touch with the rest of the university.

"In practice, the powers of both Court and Senate have been eroded by the emergence of executive management groups, within which strategic decisions are made in the absence of widespread consultation," the paper stated.

"These decisions are then reported to the governing bodies

with limited supporting and background information."

The academics go on to warn of the "substantial increase" in the proportion of university funds being spent on administration.

"Decisions, whether strategic or managerial, are increasingly made without appropriate consultation, and are, in effect, top-down decisions from a senior executive management group," the letter adds.

"The University of Glasgow" said the eviction action was taken after the last remaining students occupying the Hetherington Research Club were written to and asked to conclude their protest.

It said the continuing presence of senior protesters put at risk the university's plans to refurbish the building and develop it for academic use.

## Angry students go on the rampage over Glasgow University cuts

Continued from Page 1

affairs, blocking access to the university administration centre and Mr Muscatelli's office.

Lauri Love, one of the protest leaders, told his colleagues: "We have retaken the university", before the head of security Gordon Mackenzie was provided with a list of demands which included the resignation of Mr Muscatelli, as

well as an inquiry into the eviction.

Negotiations with Susan Stewart, director of corporate communications, and a member of the senior management group, flanked by security staff, failed to persuade the protesters to quit.

She was shouted down as she explained that a letter had previously been sent to the group asking to leave the building peacefully.

The group, who said there was no notice of any eviction, rejected her suggestion that the principal might be able to meet with a delegation.

Last night the students said the university had climbed down from its original position and agreed to let them back into the Hetherington if they stood down from the Senate building in the early hours of this morning they were preparing to move back to their

original position and resume their occupation of the site on University Gardens.

One of the evictees, Sarah Higgins, 20, a politics student, said before the group converged on Mr Muscatelli's office: "The response is out of proportion and people are angry about it. They've only made things worse."

Tommy Gore, president of the university's student representative council, said

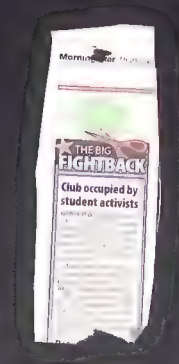
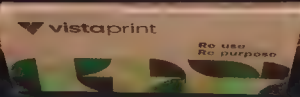
the police presence was "unacceptable" and added:

"We cannot, in any way, see the justification for allowing such a disproportionately large amount of police onto our university campus."

A university spokesman said the action was taken after a letter was sent to protesters asking them to end their demonstration as they planned to renovate the building. "University staff entered 13

University Gardens this morning and asked the remaining occupiers to leave. The police were then asked to attend when a group of protesters gathered outside. The occupiers left the building peacefully," said the spokesman.

Superintendent Nelson Telfer of Strathclyde Police denied they were there to evict people. There was one arrest for alleged obstruction but it is understood the person was not detained.





# Theatre and art gallery to be axed

University plans cutbacks to save £250,000

THE Ramshorn Theatre and Collins Gallery in Glasgow are to be closed under a plan to save about £250,000.

The moves are part of proposals by Strathclyde University to cut back its cultural activities.

The university is also planning to make Alan Tavener, its director of music, redundant.

An internal document says that "running a theatre and a gallery is not a core activity for the university."

The document claims that, in 2009/10, the university spent £344,185 on salaries and expenses for all three cultural activities.

It estimates shutting them would save £250,000 in salaries, with additional savings in running costs.

It will instead put in place a new Cultural Affairs Strategy in 2011/12, worth £100,000.

The 60-seat Ramshorn Theatre is based in a church in the Merchant City. Since it opened in 1992 it has been home to the Strathclyde Theatre Group, as well as a



Ramshorn Theatre has hosted a number of top city events

venue for the Glasgow International Comedy Festival, the Merchant City Festival and the Glasgow International Jazz Festival.

It stages recitals and musical performances organised by Mr Tavener. As well as his post, his assistant would also be axed under the plans.

The director of music position provides leadership to the University Music Society, which runs a 40-voice chamber choir, a symphony orchestra, another chorus, a larger concert band and a 19-piece big band.

The Collins Gallery, also in the Merchant City, holds the archives of artist George Wyllie, as well as an art collection of more than 1000 paintings, prints and drawings, from the mid-18th century to the present day.

# Arrests threaten future protests, lawyer warns

**Shiv Malik**

A lawyer at a leading civil liberties firm has expressed fears for the future of direct action protest after the mass arrest of UK Uncut activists during last Saturday's anti-cuts demonstrations in London.

Matt Foot, a solicitor at Birnberg Pierce says that the detention of 145 activists during an occupation of luxury food store Fortnum and Mason in Piccadilly is "unprecedented" and he has questioned the police's motivation.

After being arrested for aggravated trespass and criminal damage, scores of campaigners were held by police for up to 24 hrs. The next day, the accusation of criminal damage was dropped but 138 activists were bailed on the charge of aggravated trespass.

Foot, son of the campaigning journalist Paul Foot, said, "It is unprecedented to arrest so many people for simply protesting peacefully in a building. And then it is intimidating to keep peaceful protesters for so long at the police station and then charge them so quickly without reviewing the evidence first."

Replying to a Commons question on Monday about whether UK Uncut activists had been "misrepresented", the home secretary Theresa May said that the police were right to make the arrests. Adam Ramsay, a campaigner with UK Uncut who was detained for more than 20 hours believes the arrests could have been politically motivated. "At the time the chief inspector at Fortnum and Mason effectively told us there we had committed no criminal damage - that we were all "non-violent" and "sensible". But moments later, we were all arrested for criminal damage - a charge later dropped. This certainly looks to me like political policing."

In a statement the Metropolitan police said, "The matter is now sub judice. It would be inappropriate to discuss further whilst proceedings are active."



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Students' fury  
as five arrested  
over marches



# STUC back students

by Jim Cameron

**STUDENTS** involved in the Hetherington occupation have welcomed a motion at last week's Scottish Trades Union Congress condemning what was claimed as 'political policing'.

The activity was explained in the motion as appearing "to be designed to intimidate anti-cuts activists, particularly young people and students, as opposed to fulfilling any legitimate law and order function".

The motion, passed unanimously by conference, also noted the public concern which had been voiced by high-profile people such as the journalist John Pilger and film-makers Ken Loach and Peter Mullen.

It follows two recent incidents where police tactics came into question with the anti-cuts demonstration in December and the removal of students from Hetherington in March.

The latter incident sparked outrage among students who claimed that police actively took part in removing students from the research club — a claim police denied — while stating that they were simply there to observe.

Five people had been arrested recently on charges relating to the demonstration on December 9 with one of those being a 14 years old school student.

However, this week it was announced that supporters of the anti-cuts group, Glasgow Defence Campaign, and the Free Hetherington had charges against them dropped.

One of the bail conditions imposed was that they were forbidden to attend any demonstration that included two or more other people.

A spokesman for the GDC said: "We welcome this news as a significant victory for all those opposed to the cuts and those fighting for democratic rights in Glasgow".

Now, an independent inquiry

has been launched by the university into the incidents surrounding the forced eviction from the Hetherington.

Chaired by university rector Charles Kennedy MP, it will include George Moore QC, professor Sheila Rowan and Fraser Sutherland.

A university spokesman said: "An independent inquiry, chaired by rector Charles Kennedy, with students and staff representatives, is underway and the university will co-operate fully with this inquiry and members of the management group will be giving evidence.

"Meanwhile, the university values its productive relationship with the students representative council and has set up a working group with them to examine options for any future post-graduate social space".

The inquiry will take evidence relating to the incidents when security staff and police are said to have entered the building and removed protesters.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

THE NEWS BY  
Barrhead

SPONSORED BY

UK HIGH STREET TRAVEL AGENT OF THE YEAR 2010

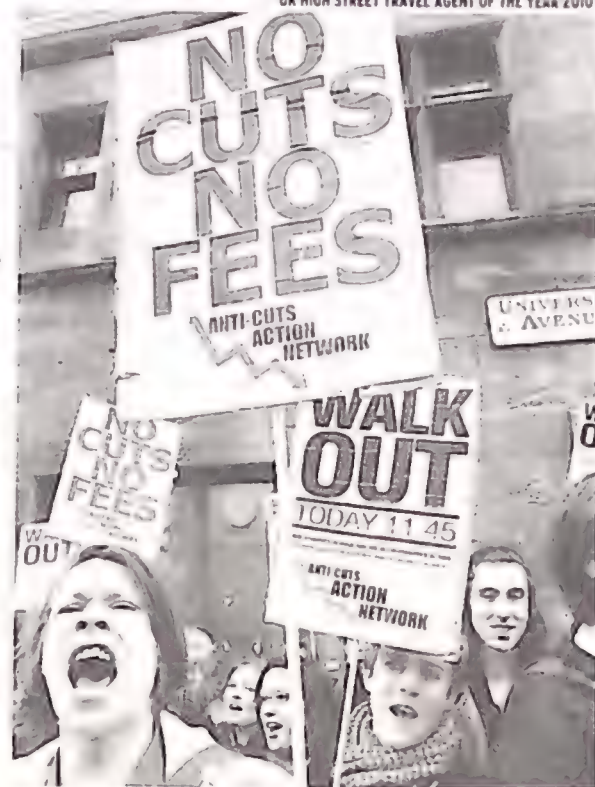
# Education is proven way out of poverty

**YESTERDAY'S** Save the Children report on child poverty in Scotland highlights the size of the challenge we face regarding how we can best address the problem of far too many areas of ingrained generational poverty.

At the end of the day children only learn what they live so we need to urgently tackle the culture of learned helplessness which saps self-confidence and initiative.

But Scotland has always encouraged academic talent on the basis of merit not money. Education is one certain route out of poverty and that is why the Scottish Government is 100 per cent correct to set its face against the kind of tuition fees hike which we have seen in England.

*Andy Doig, Linwood*



Glasgow University students protesting against course cuts

Each week the Editor will award the writer of the best letter a £50 holiday voucher from Barrhead Travel, Scotland's award winning travel group, which offers a variety of vacations at low prices, ranging from affordable city breaks to package holidays and luxury cruises. Visit Barrhead Travel's website at [www.barrheadtravel.co.uk](http://www.barrheadtravel.co.uk) for details of their latest offers.





Open for business: Student activists take control of the Hetherington

>>page 3

# Uni surplus surges as staff brace for cutbacks

•Senior Management to outline £20m savings in Uni spend

•Predicted budget surplus increases to over £7.3million for 2011

**DETAILS OF MANAGEMENT** funding plans, understood by the Guardian in advance of their anticipated February 11 publication, reveal dramatic reductions to outgoings while university income grows.

The upcoming 'Cost Reduction Plan', which will aim to slash university expenditure, is expected to highlight increasing staff costs cuts and

Nick Skora  
Exclusive

see a number of University courses axed.

The information, which is not due to be released to the public until later this month, suggests that Senior Management will maintain its intention to make total annual savings of £20million while increasing revenue by £15million elsewhere, a plan that was initially drawn up to save the University from insolvency in the face of predicted cuts by the Scottish Government.

It is hoped that these measures will now also give the institution an operating surplus, as the 6.7% reduction to university subsidies from the Scottish Government have not yet risen to the 20-25% many industry leaders had feared.

Several cost-cutting measures are already being rolled out across the university, with staff being invited to take part in a new Volunteer Severance/Early Retirement (VSER) scheme in the hope of encouraging

those staff reaching the end of their career into early redundancy. Staff costs currently account for 55% of all University spend, a figure that the Cost Reduction Plan seeks to address.

An email mistakenly sent out by Senior Management to members of the University Senate in May 2010 outlined draft proposals collectively termed the 'Strategic Investment Plan', which mentions closure of

(continued on page 2)

# 'I have never known such despair and demoralisation' At the heart of the storm raging at Glasgow University

By Edd McCracken Education Correspondent

**'W'**E are worse than the Soviet Union in a number of respects. Even in the worst moments of the Soviet Union they didn't dispense with the outward forms of democratic process, even if the substance wasn't there. They had elections and so on. Only 10 years ago here we were able to elect our own dean. That now feels like a pie in the sky idea."

Professor Stephen White brings his 40 years of teaching politics to bear in his take on the crisis now enveloping Glasgow University. His area of expertise is Russia. He does not shrink from hearing echoes of the former Soviet Union. "The reorganisation of the university is called a 'restructuring'," says the 65-year-old, "which is exactly what Gorbachev called his 'Perestroika'. And where did it end? With the collapse of the state."

To speak to an academic within the university about the institution's current plight is to invite analogies that are suitably literate, wide-ranging and utterly damning. The Soviet Union, the banking crisis, Tony Blair's abandonment of Cabinet government in the run-up to the invasion Iraq... All the offered parallels paint a constant picture: the staff are trapped inside an institution that is quickly running aground.

The 560-year-old university, the fourth-oldest in the English-speaking world, has become the unwilling pin-up for the seismic changes rippling through Scottish higher education. Last month its principal, Anton Muscatelli, unveiled wide-ranging cuts and managers to make up a £55 million "funding gap".

Modern languages and nursing are just two high-profile subjects facing the axe. Archaeology faces being merged with history. Protests have been held. Angry letters written. Even Stephen Fry has become involved.

And this week the academics started speaking out. First on mass - 200 professors and researchers from the university

wrote to the Scottish Government highlighting their concerns - and now individually. They laid bare life on the inside.

"In my 17 years here I've never known anything like it," said one. "I've never known such despair and demoralisation. It's utterly unprecedented."

Academics tell of staff ill with stress, morale at its lowest ebb in decades, all goodwill evaporated, senior professors being treated like "naughty school children" and students being sidelined amid the furore.

"It has taken my mind off the top priorities," admitted one. "I am neglecting my research and my students."

They may be stressed and angry but the academics are clear-headed about the target of their criticism: a senior management team that is "deaf to the staff". The correspondence with the Scottish Government, signed by the 200 staff, centred around this issue. A small group of highly paid senior managers has eroded the centuries-old influence and power of the senate, which is responsible for the university's academic direction. The basic gripe is, academics have been shoved aside for accountants; learning swapped for money.

The senior management in question includes Muscatelli, who earns £288,000 in salary and pension contributions, and two other members, who also allegedly earn more than the Prime Minister's £142,500 salary: head of finance Robert Fraser (dubbed "Fraser the Eraser" on campus), and secretary of court David Newall.

Together they have, it is claimed, installed a "top down" model with accountants telling academics how to teach. "I resent being told how we should teach by people who themselves are not active teachers," said one professor.

The proposed savings stick in the craw of the academic staff principally because they believe the rationale has never been fully explained, nor full details of the changes divulged. Thomas Munck, professor of early modern European

## The principals versus the people

Comment  
By Iain Macwhirter

**T**HE democratic intellect lives again. This weekend it has become clear that none of the major Scottish political parties will go into the Scottish election campaign calling for the reintroduction of university tuition fees. Only the Scottish Conservatives, a very marginal force, are now committed to introducing a graduate contribution in Scotland.

This really is a remarkable development and tells us a great deal, not just about the future of higher education, but about the effectiveness of popular protest. A line has been drawn against the privatisation of Scotland's university system. And all credit to the SNP leader, Alex Salmond, for drawing it.

Yet, only six months ago, there appeared to be a consensus emerging that tuition fees would be restored in Scotland whoever won the Scottish parliamentary elections in May. The university vice-chancellors had been issuing dire warnings about a £400 million funding "gap" that would arise after the introduction of tuition fees south of the Border.

Prominent figures such as Lord Sutherland, the former principal of Edinburgh University, made speeches demanding the reintroduction of fees to stop Scottish universities falling behind in an international league tables of excellence.

The Scottish Labour leader, Iain Gray, said the current funding arrangements, whereby student fees are paid out of general taxation, were "unsustainable" and suggested that some form of graduation tax, as favoured by Ed Miliband, was inevitable.

Even the leader of the National Union of Students in Scotland, Liam Burns, had indicated that he was prepared to see the return of tuition fees in the form of a "graduate contribution". Only the Scottish National Party held the line against fees, though six months ago, the Scottish Education Secretary, Mike Russell, was only prepared to rule out up-front fees. Most of the Scottish media seemed to think it was a matter of time before Scotland fell into line with England.

About the only people who hadn't had their say on this were the Scottish voters themselves. However, once the Scottish parties started asking around, they soon got the message that any kind of introduction of the English system, even

Glasgow University principal Anton Muscatelli is at the centre of a storm over the way the institution is being run

Photograph: Kirsty Anderson



'I don't think I have ever known such a remote, uncommunicative, unconsultative executive'

history, said: "As academics we are trained critical thinkers. We don't take things at face value. So when the finance director tells us we have a shortfall of £35m, we want to see precisely on what parameters he has reached those figures."

English literature professor Willy Maley describes the level of communication from management to the staff in even more blunt terms: "I don't think I have ever

known such a remote, uncommunicative, unconsultative executive. The senior management don't listen. They tell."

A consistent complaint levelled by the academics interviewed was the fear that decisions on courses were being made based on their profitability. According to William Hanson, professor of Roman archaeology, this was disingenuously applied to the Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD), which was made redundant in December.

"The management said it wasn't making any money," said Hanson. "That was false." The former GUARD staff have now set up as a private company and are, according to Hanson, "doing quite well for themselves".

Hanson added: "The management just ignored what we said about the value of the unit. So one does feel they have an agenda and anything we say is simply going to be ignored." Last week's show of solidarity among

the 200 academics who signed the submission to the Scottish Government was across subjects and departments, those threatened and those not. They promise this will be the start of a more organised groundswell.

The university said it is currently undergoing a consultation process with staff about the proposed cuts.

One particularly fatalistic academic likened this to "asking a condemned man on how he would like to die".

## 'University principals have undermined their case by apparently exaggerating the scale of the problem'

with a lower graduate contribution, would be hugely unpopular. Perhaps if the UK Government had not raised the fee cap to the stratospheric level of £9000, Scotland might have accepted some reintroduction of the £2000 graduate endowment that was abolished by the SNP in 2007. But the thought of Scottish students leaving university with debts of £36,000 – excluding living costs – was anathema to Scottish opinion.

Of course, the single most important factor in altering the climate of political opinion was the campaign mounted by university students south of the Border and in Scotland last November and December. They failed to prevent the bill introducing £3000 fees from being passed by the Westminster Parliament, but they seem to have blocked it in Holyrood. That's not a bad second-best.

THE second key factor was the extraordinary behaviour of the university principals themselves, notably Professor Anton Muscatelli of Glasgow University, who undermined their case by apparently exaggerating the scale of the problem – the so-called £400m "funding gap" – and by suggesting that their institutions might be forced into bankruptcy. The final straw was the threat by Universities Scotland two weeks ago to cut undergraduate admissions by 40% in 2013 if it didn't get its way on tuition fees. The idea that, at a time of growing youth unemployment, these publicly funded bodies would seek to deny thousands of young people an opportunity to study was just too much for the politicians in Holyrood and opinion turned decisively against the university grandees.

Labour's Iain Gray concluded that it was no longer politically possible to back the principals and tuition fees, at least for the time being. He hurriedly announced on Friday that Labour would "not put a price tag on

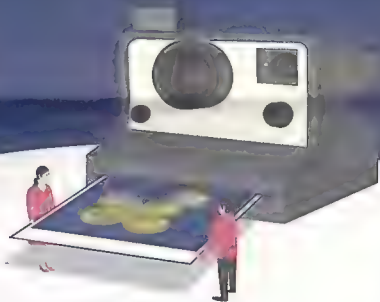
education" and promised no tuition charges under the next Labour government. It was a belated conversion, perhaps, but a pretty emphatic one, though cynics pointed out that Tony Blair had made similar promises before the 1997 General Election. With the Scottish Liberal Democrats at their conference in Perth this weekend making clear they will reject their own UK leader Nick Clegg's policy and oppose fees, and with Alex Salmond expected to rule out tuition fees in his conference speech next weekend, it is clear that the graduate contribution is now a dead duck.

But what of the funding gap? How will universities cope? Well, once again, it appears that the universities have been their own worst enemies here by overstating their case. The findings of the expert group established that the so-called gap would not be £400m but nearer £100m. At a time of financial restraint and cuts in the public sector, it seems not unreasonable to expect the universities to make do and mend for a while.

There is no question of universities being plunged into penury – or, as Prof Muscatelli warned – being forced to declare themselves bankrupt. Anyway, the Scottish voters, asked whether they wanted world-class universities, or universities they could afford to attend, might not be quite so concerned about the precise rankings in the international academic league tables.

But the important point is that the Scottish universities only exist because of public funds, and that carries a responsibility to deliver, well, public education. If any wish to go it alone and be self-financing private institutions, then they are perfectly entitled to do so. But somehow, I don't think many will be going down that road. Instead, questions are being raised about whether these richly rewarded university leaders, some of whom earn twice as much as the First Minister, really deserve their remuneration. If economies need to be made, there is one obvious place to start.

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# Hetherington re-opened by students

Adam Campbell

THE ABANDONED HETHERINGTON Research Club has been occupied by various activist groups in protest to proposed cuts to Higher Education.

The club, which was forced to close down last year for financial reasons, was occupied on Tuesday February 1 by around 50 protesters, who gained access to the empty building through a fire door from the adjoining building 11 University Gardens.

**"this kind of direct action might have actually kept our social space open and kept 25 people in jobs"**

Eileen Boyle - former Staff Representative

The occupiers have issued a list of demands, which include indefinite freedom of access, no police presence, acceptance of student ownership and control of the Hetherington. The protesters are also demanding no cuts to student services or unions and no job losses without proper consultation.

One protester explained the reasons for the occupation.

He said: "Student action shows the importance of the student experience and this occupation of the Hetherington will remind others of that as well."

The decision to occupy the building was taken on Monday as workers began to renovate the building, in what is rumoured to be an attempt by the University to sell off the building as offices.

The activists intend on using the club as a free student space that is open to all staff

and students, and numerous events have been held in the building, including a reading by AL Kennedy, in what is understood to be the launch of her campaign to become Rector at Glasgow University.

Many different groups, including former staff members at the Hetherington, have supported the campaign. Eileen Boyle, former Staff Representative at the Hetherington, showed her support for the occupation.

She said: "I was here the day they actually shut it down and I'm just thinking this kind of direct action might have actually kept our social space open and kept 25 people in jobs so I'm applauding what the students are doing just now to draw attention to this."

Tommy Gore, President of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), applauded the efforts of the protesters, but warned them from shifting focus off other events.

He said: "Whilst it's good to see the Hetherington back in use, we're concerned that the Occupation will detract from the issues surrounding the forthcoming Cost Reduction Plan in the next week. This is where the SRCs focus will be on, in responding to these announcements."

A University spokesperson says it will not intervene with the occupation unless it becomes disruptive.

He said: "Campus security are in close contact with the protesters. As things stand, as long as the protest remains peaceful and does not disrupt the normal business of the University and other students, campus security will not intervene."

The Research Club was closed down last year after the university stopped providing financial grants to the club, believing that it was unjustifiable to supply funding to a club that was not financially viable.

Nick Sikora



Occupied: the previously vacant Hetherington Research Club



Students make their voices heard over the Browne Review proposals

yes

Do you think the Scottish Government will be influenced by Westminster's decision to increase fees in England?

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## Poorest students to lose out in budget

Louise Wilson

CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED THAT £9m worth of necessary funding will not be met for colleges and students for the next academic year.

These figures came after the proposal of a draft Scottish Budget, and has sparked fears that college places will become unstable as many will not receive the bursaries they rely on whilst attending college, with speculation that drop-out numbers are set to increase.

A Freedom of Information request for previous year's budgets, found that many had received inadequate funding, with 41% of colleges having to use reserves to fulfil bursary requirements and 24% having to make cuts to students directly.

College bursaries provide up to £89 per week for the poorest students in full time further education. Without this weekly allow-

ance, some claim they would not be able to afford to remain in college, and would be forced to seek employment instead.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Government said that this information was being taken into consideration.

He said: "The budget is currently in draft form and our focus is on acting in the best interests of college students.

"Clear evidence of this comes in the fact that the Scottish Government is providing record funding for college student support in the current year (2010-11), up by over 6 per cent. Moreover, our draft Budget for next year will ensure that this record level of funding is maintained in the face of the savage cuts imposed on us by the Westminster Government."

If colleges run out of funds bursaries are likely to stop, as unlike university loans and Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMA), they come from college funds rather than directly from the Scottish government.

## Plagiarism on the rise in Scotland

Phine Apenburg

OFFICIAL FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE number of students who are caught plagiarising at University is steadily rising.

This year has witnessed an unprecedented number of cases of plagiarism; a survey has shown that over a thousand students have been trying to cheat. Plagiarism has increased by 8% since last year, up from 1079 incidents of plagiarism to 1169.

This trend has been on the rise for several years. St Andrew's University has caught 276 incidents of cheating over the course of the past five years.

Scottish Universities have revealed the number of plagiarism cases that they were able to identify in 2009/10; Edinburgh Napier has the highest number of students being convicted of plagiarism with 288 incidents, Robert Gordon in Aberdeen recorded 204 cases and Stirling University identified 198 cases over the year. There were 178 examples of plagiarism at Edinburgh University and at least 62 cases at Glasgow University, which did not release its full figures.

It has been claimed that the increase in recorded plagiarism is a result of better methods of detecting copied work. Numerous universities use software such as Turnitin in order to detect plagiarised work more easily. This program scans the students' work for passages that might have been copied from other essays, making it easier to spot plagiarism and has allegedly led to a higher number of recorded cases. Twice as many students have been caught plagiarizing at universities that use programs like Turnitin.

A spokesperson for the University and College Union explained possible reasons for the rise.

He said: "As information is easily available online and essays can be purchased on the internet, it may seem like an easy option to those under a great deal of pressure". He also pointed towards the increased pressure that students nowadays feel at university and that this might be a reason for the dramatic increase in plagiarism cases.

He said: "While we do not condone cheating, it is understandable to think more students are doing it now".



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2 »

Continued on page 5 »

# NUS leader to step aside amid recriminations over fees

Jessica Shepherd

The president of the National Union of Students, Aaron Porter, is to stand down this summer amid fierce criticism that he did not fight hard enough to prevent university tuition fees almost trebling.

The decision follows claims that the union's leadership had lost touch with a growing number of students determined to make their voices heard from the streets. The 26-year-old and his supporters were, it is said by some in the febrile world of student politics, slow to recognise the depth of anger among grassroots activists over fees.

Following clashes between police and students on the evening of 9 December,

just after MPs had voted to raise fees to a maximum of £9,000 a year Porter appeared on television to condemn the violence.

Last night Stephen Brown, national secretary of the NUS until 2008, said the speed with which Porter had denounced the violence had marked a "clear tipping point" when his support started to dwindle. "He was absolutely right to con-



**Aaron Porter denied he had been hounded out of his job, insisting he was standing down to give the NUS a 'fresh outlook'**

demn violence, but some of his members were out demonstrating peacefully while he was condemning it. It would have been better to wait a little longer."

Others have attacked Porter for being too slow to endorse students' occupations of university buildings and said he had "admitted defeat before the battle over tuition fees had started".

Mark Bergfeld, spokesman for the Education Activist Network, which has organised many of the fees demonstrations, said Porter had seen himself more as a policymaker than an activist defending his members on the streets.

"Students have had enough of a leader who talked about the graduate tax while they were planning marches to call for free education," said Bergfeld, a member

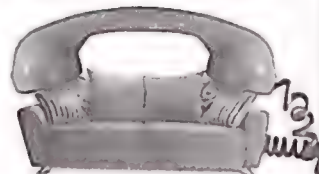
of the Socialist Workers party who is to be a candidate for the presidency.

However, Porter is credited by many with leading a high-profile campaign against higher fees and education cuts over the last year.

Porter denied he had been hounded out and said he was stepping aside because the NUS needed a "fresh outlook" as universities and students entered a new environment of higher tuition fees and reduced public funds.

He said the NUS response to education cuts "will go down in the history books", adding: "We've kick-started a wave of student action, brought the coalition to its knees and shaped the public debate on education in an unprecedented fashion."

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DEMONSTRATION: Students occupy Glasgow University's Hetherington Club yesterday. Picture: Martin Shields

## Students stage protest at club

**JASPER HAMILL**

STUDENT activists occupied a disused Glasgow University social club yesterday in a bid to force the authorities to rethink their decision to close it down.

More than 50 students stormed into the Hetherington Research Club, which folded last February and claims that thousands of

pounds had been embezzled from the accounts.

The decision to occupy the club "indefinitely" was taken after university workers arrived on Monday to start renovating it into offices.

The students claimed the closure was part of wider cuts to education budgets and said they would not leave until Glasgow

University agreed to fund the reopening of the club. They see it as a vital social space where academics can exchange ideas.

A University spokeswoman said: "As long as the protest remains peaceful and does not disrupt the normal business of the university and other students, campus security will not intervene."

Police escort student protesters from the Hetherington Club at Glasgow University which they had occupied for weeks



# Five Glasgow students held over tuition-fee protests

14-year-old is detained for breach of peace

By CATRIONA STEWART

FIVE Glasgow students, including a 14-year-old, have been arrested for their part in protests in the city last year.

The protesters were detained on breach of the peace charges relating to anti-tuition fee marches on December 9 and 12.

The arrests follow the arrest of three students during an attempt to evict a group occupying Glasgow University's Hetherington Research Club.

Two 17-year-olds are among the five arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Students now plan to hold a demonstration in Glasgow City Centre today in protest at what they call a "campaign of intimidation".

The students are and over the protests are subject to strict bail conditions, which ban them from much of the city centre, including Buchanan St, Argyle St, Sauchiehall St and George Square. They are also forbidden from entering



Students took to the city streets in protest over plans to bring in tuition fee

Glasgow University, though this ban was lifted for one student with approaching exams.

In clashes between students and police at Glasgow University last month, protesters evicted from the Hetherington after a 50-day occupation were allowed back in less than 24 hours after being removed.

Dozens of students occupied the club in January in protest at proposed course cuts designed to save £20 million by 2014.

Protesters were removed from the building in University Gardens, in a three-hour operation involving up to 100 police officers, dogs and a helicopter.

A spokeswoman for the Glasgow University occupation, Susan Thomson, said "as the movement against cuts and austerity steps up, the police have made clear where they stand."

"They are willing to victimise young students and criminalise protest."

"The Free Hetherington condemns these ar-

rests as a clear attack on the right to organise and protest."

She added "The current agenda being pushed by the authorities at both a national and local level must be resisted."

At protests throughout the country in December thousands of students gathered to express anger at hikes in tuition fees.

"Today's Glasgow protest begins at noon on Gordon Street."

The five arrested will appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court on Thursday April 21.

Monday Police break up student sit-in  
Wednesday Uni invite protesters back

# YOU SHALL NOT BE MOVED



**FIRST CLASH  
HONOURS:**  
Cops formed a wall  
to remove students

**BUNGLING** uni bosses yesterday begged students to reoccupy a campus building hours after sparking a major police operation to evict them.

Around 100 officers, a helicopter and police dogs were called in to end a seven-week protest against budget cuts being held at Glasgow University's Hetherington Club.

Union demonstrators who were evicted off the premises quickly moved on to occupy an even more

**By John Ferguson**

[j.ferguson@dailyrecord.co.uk](mailto:j.ferguson@dailyrecord.co.uk)

landmark tower, forcing management into a humiliating climbdown.

The Hetherington Club has now been handed back to the students with a promise that police will not be called again, and university principal Professor Anton Muscatelli has even offered to refurbish the toilets.

The move has angered Strathclyde Police chiefs, who refused to comment yesterday.

But a force insider said: "The boss

had steam coming out of his ears when he heard about this. The operation was carried out after a call for assistance from the university and cost tens of thousands of pounds.

"The whole thing has been completely mishandled by the uni."

Student leaders accused the university and police of heavy-handed tactics during the raid on Tuesday.

A university spokesman said: "After discussion with management, it was agreed that students return to the Hetherington Building. Discussions are continuing."



# Students take to streets in protest as universities push forward cuts

FIONA MACLEOD  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ANGRY protests broke out yesterday over plans to cut courses at two of Scotland's largest universities.

Demonstrations took place on the campuses of Glasgow and Strathclyde universities as the ruling bodies held meetings over proposed cuts.

Glasgow aims to save up to £20 million and Strathclyde up to £12m by cutting arts and social science degrees.

Previously proposed cuts at Glasgow have already been scaled back, with a reprieve for a number of language courses.

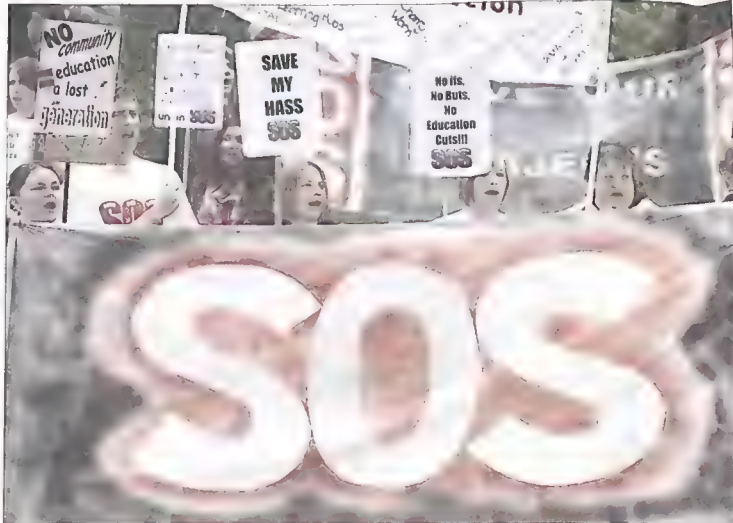
But last night, Strathclyde's Senate recommended closure of courses. Its ruling court will have a final say on 28 June.

The plans to close community education courses, among others at Strathclyde University, were condemned as "deeply dis-

## PERSPECTIVE

Take a year out  
and we might just  
keep it free

JAMES M FRASER  
PAGES 36-37



Student protesters gathered at Strathclyde University as the Senate planned savings of up to £12m yesterday

Picture: Mick McGurk

appointing" and "short-sighted". Jim Sweeney, chief executive of Youthlink Scotland, said community education graduates were crucial to rebuilding Scotland's economy. He said cutting the degrees would be a "real blow" to Scotland's ability to provide a world-class education.

He said: "This is a deeply disappointing and short-sighted decision that will have a significant, negative impact on individuals and communities across West and Central Scotland."

"Scottish education and society need highly skilled and motivated youth and community education staff to support the rebuilding of Scotland's economy."

"The loss of these courses will be a real blow to Scotland's ongoing ability to provide world-class education."

At Glasgow, Slavonic studies, a liberal arts course at its Crichton Campus in Dumfries, and adult education courses are threatened. It said last night that its centre for drug misuse research would also close. At Strathclyde, closure plans will affect ap-

plied music, community education, geography and sociology. Officials at Glasgow have said they must take action in tough times.

However, student leaders said it makes no sense to cut courses until the Scottish Government announces budgets for higher education next year.

A joint staff and student motion to the Senate at Strathclyde criticised the speed of the consultation and it being undertaken during exam time.

Philip Whyte, president of Strathclyde Students' Association, said: "We have consistently made the argument for these courses based on issues of access, provision, and quality – all of which have stood up to scrutiny."

"For Senate to ignore these and focus on placating management's vision of a narrowly defined technological university is not just ridiculous, it's scandalous."

A Strathclyde spokesman said the proposals would focus resources to strengthen the arts

faculty. He said humanities and social science remained the largest faculty at Strathclyde.

He added: "These proposals will allow the faculty to build its research profile, deliver teaching excellence, and make an even greater impact on society through the development of a strong public policy portfolio."

"Strathclyde's distinctiveness, and its ability to bring together the humanities and social sciences, business, science, and engineering, within an international technological university, gives Scotland real competitive advantage as it continues to grow a high-value economy."

## Fifty days of strikes for Telford

MORE than 50 days of strike action will take place from Wednesday over plans to cut 50 jobs at Edinburgh's Telford College.

Principal Miles Dibsdall said he was "deeply disappointed" by the move. However, almost 90 per cent of lecturers at the college voted for action. Ronnie Smith, EIS general secretary, said: "Staff are taking this strike action as a last resort."

Meanwhile members of the University and College Union (UCU) at Robert Gordon University (RGU) in Aberdeen protested at its decision to derecognise the UCU and Unite unions. Mary Senior, Scottish official for UCU, said: "We are now asking the board to review that decision."

Job cuts are also planned at St Andrews University. It has warned staff of a risk of redundancy.

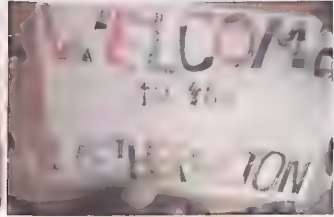
# Students take to street over Glasgow Uni cuts



*THIS was the scene in Glasgow yesterday as 2000 students protested over proposed cuts at Glasgow University. Demonstrators marched close to the institution before holding a rally in the main quadrangle. Full story: Page 5*



## A free service



### **Demands of the Occupation**

Maintained freedom of access to the building, on the terms of the occupants.

The Hetherington Research Club to be returned to democratic control by students and staff, with the return of the block grant. All those who lost their jobs as a result of the closure should be offered their jobs back.

Anton Muscatelli should condemn the cuts and student fees and take the average wage of University staff, or resign.

No cuts at Glasgow University. We demand no job cuts, no course cuts, no cuts to student services, no cuts to teaching budgets and an end to the voluntary severance scheme.

Glasgow University must become a democratic place of lifelong learning for all residents of Glasgow.

We demand investment in higher education and wider public services as part of the Government's programme of austerity.

The rash of student occupations over the last few months in reactions to cuts and Westminster government policy have taken place in lecture theatres or court buildings – places of established use and power. Here at Glasgow University our last student occupation took place in the Gilmorehill Theatre, a space that is used for lectures and performances. The logic behind these targets is clear – in order to win demands from university management it is necessary to occupy somewhere in a manner that is extremely disruptive, doing this will force management to concede.

Our occupation of the former postgraduate club, the Hetherington Research Club at 13 University Gardens, is a different operation, both in ideology and in practice. The space that we have reclaimed is a former student union that the university has decided it is not willing to provide space or funding for. This history of the Hetherington, its mismanagement and lack of oversight from the University, are just that, history. We are not causing disruption to the stated aims of a university; that of providing an education, in fact we are furthering and deepening them. Management were about to begin a major operation to turn the building from which we are writing this letter from a home for postgraduate students to socialize, collaborate intellectually and share ideas and research, to office space. This is a cut to student services, one of many made before the cuts entered the public consciousness, and one of a whole range of reductions to the experience and offerings of Glasgow University. Worse than this it represents the potential loss of jobs, and redundancy for members of staff.

This cut to services would have destroyed the prospect of the much loved and much needed Hetherington Research Club from ever re-opening. Therefore we feel that we could not have chosen a better space for reclamation; no disruption for students and plenty for management. We feel that, like the rest of the British social and economic system, the education sector – and higher education in particular – has been captured by the same business, finance and market models that have caused even business, financial and market systems to fail. We assert, in general, that a form of society containing such high levels of wealth which cannot provide free education, free health care and a sense of justice and fairness is a failed system.

We stand in solidarity with student occupations in this country, only some of the hundreds across the world, but what we are trying to do is fundamentally different to many other occupations. The Free Hetherington is not a protest; it is a living demonstration of how people can come together and build a space that is democratically run, autonomous and non-commercial. Thus far, it has been an incredible success beyond what many of us could have hoped for a week ago, let alone a year ago.

Our single most important demand is something that no-one can give us – it is something that we walked in and took for ourselves. Instead of waiting for the University to address our demands we have already created an active space for students and members of the community. The Free Hetherington. It is hard to communicate to people who have not been to visit the sense of euphoria and engagement involved in this place. Something really exciting and unique is happening here, not everyone here is an activist, but everyone is active. Every day The Free

Hetherington has been busy with students and members of the community coming in for free coffee and food, a chance to meet people and have stimulating conversations. Our invitation to take part in our programme of events such as film showings, reading groups, guest lectures, skill-sharing workshops, discussion groups has been taken up across campus. Crucially, the building is being booked and used by student groups and societies. It is open for use by the wider community, supported by a developing and self-critical democratic infrastructure that we have created since Tuesday the 1st of February.

The space that we have created is non-commercial. Those who have arrived have often commented on being confused about what they might find beforehand, but many have quickly come to realise that this is different from the other student unions and surrounding West End pubs and cafés. The climate of social segregation that can be a part of the dual union system at Glasgow University is absent here and nobody is trying to make a profit from people that visit this space. It is apparent to us that one of the clearest illustrations of the alienating effects of introducing money into human relationships is what happens when you remove it. The fact that we have created a non-commercial space fosters relationships and collaborations based on respect, trust and solidarity. People are not invited, and do not come here, as consumers but as participants.

Currently we are serving two full vegan meals a day, breakfast and dinner, but lunch supplies are also always available. All food served in The Free Hetherington is ethically sourced and collectively made. We invite students and the wider community to come and study, discuss, collaborate, collate, talk, meet and create their own part of this community. Most importantly, we invite students, staff and communities to come here to teach us about themselves, and what we share in these difficult political and economic times. Or simply hang out and have a sandwich. Or see if there is anything they need from the free shop. Or a book they might like from the free library. Or meet another student who might be able to help with their dissertation. Or learn Spanish.

As with the youth houses of the Basque Country where, like many parts of Europe, there is a strong tradition of self-organized young people taking a space and running it as a collective space for non-commercial socializing as well as collective organizing. A culture of autonomous spaces is created by the idea that if we want spaces of our own then we just take them. That is what we have begun in The Free Hetherington Club. However, as our occupation here ends we hope that there will be a generation of Glasgow University students who will have gained vital experience in reclaiming a building and turning it into a microcosm of what it might be like to live in a better world; a world of real human freedom. We hope that both the people who eat their lunch here a couple of times a week and those who are involved long-term will take this experience and continue to create oases of freedom, respect and community. If we do, then we can imagine a situation where in the future we can continue to create spaces where young people organize themselves in open, non-hierarchical spaces to do what they feel is right in a place where their opinions are respected and they do not have to spend money. Communities that are created, not dictated. This is the beginning.

Lots of love, The Free Hetherington



# Sit-in students get their way after six-month protest

By Richard Garner  
Education Editor

JUBILANT STUDENTS at Glasgow University were celebrating a victory last night after one of the longest sit-ins in British history.

The occupation of a disused building at the university began six months ago in a protest about spending cuts

and the closing of a social club for post-graduates.

The students will move out at the end of the month after reaching agreement with the university which they say will ensure no further cuts and a new club to be opened in the new year.

Their sit-in was supported by a range of people from the world of politics and the arts, including the

singer/songwriter Billy Bragg and the film director Ken Loach, who joined the students for dinner one evening.

The Hetherington Building that they occupied had been earmarked for offices in a university redevelopment scheme at a time when major cuts in courses were being planned.

About 70 students helped mount a round-the-clock vigil lasting almost

200 days, despite an abortive early attempt to evict them.

As they contemplated the end of the sit-in, they made it clear it was not the end of student protests.

"While we've achieved a lot on campus this year, the fight absolutely does not end here," Laura Jones, 24, said. "We will continue our campaign against tuition fees and ensure

management keep to their end of the bargain."

James Humphries, also 24, a post-graduate philosophy student, said: "Direct action and direct democracy work, we've proved that and management have accepted it, which in itself is an achievement."

The university said: "We are pleased the students who have been occupying the Hetherington Building for over six months have decided to bring the occupation to a peaceful conclusion. This will allow the university to redevelop the space for academic use."

## University students vote to end six-month occupation

STUDENTS leading a six-month occupation of a former university social club have voted to vacate the building.

The anti cuts campaign at the Hetherington building, previously a postgraduate bar at the University of Glasgow, is due to come to an end following an agreement with Principal Anton Muscatelli.

Full details of the agreement are not yet known, but protesters claimed the campaign had "led to concessions", with pledges secured of a new postgraduate club, no further cuts to courses and no compulsory redundancies.

The Herald was unable to contact the university last night but a statement is expected this morning.

The campaign group said students have now been given the opportunity to quiz Principal Muscatelli in a mass open meeting in October over management decisions at the university.

In exchange, the students will end their sit-in at University Gardens to allow management to convert the former postgraduate club into lecturing space.

James Humphries, 24, a postgraduate student in philosophy, said: "Six months after management refused to engage with us, we've finally won these demands. Peaceful direct action and direct democracy work, we've proved that and management have accepted it, which in itself is a huge achievement."

The students, who have been sleeping, studying and unpacking in the former club for almost 200 days, were visited by supporters including film director Ken Loach and singer-songwriter Billy Bragg. They will leave the building at the end of the month.

# Protests as university announces closures

## £20 million budget cut to 'turn around finances'

Nick Dralney

Amid loud street protests, the University of Glasgow yesterday announced a raft of cuts that it hopes will play a part in saving up to £20 million.

The university's court agreed to a series of measures to "turn around" its finances: the Centre for Drug Misuse Research is to close after 17 years; a liberal arts programme based at the Dumfries campus will end next year, and the university is to withdraw from the Glasgow School of Social Work.

However, a plan has been made to

continue the current range of modern languages, and anthropology, archaeology, classics and history will continue to be taught. Nursing and healthcare course are also untouched, at least until the 2012-2013 academic year.

The cuts will lead to savings of £3 million, part of an expected £20 million reduction in the university's budget.

Dave Anderson, president of the University of Glasgow branch of the lecturers' union UCU Scotland, said the implications for staff were still not clear and answers were needed about potent-

ial job losses. "The results today really call in to question the whole nature of the consultation. It set out to save £3 million through this consultation process. Having seen the results of the exercise today, I don't think they have saved a single penny."

Professor Anton Muscatelli, principal and vice-chancellor, said that "a vigorous and comprehensive consultation programme" had led up to yesterday's decisions. "We will continue to provide a world-class learning and teaching environment, and look forward to the future development of the University with considerable optimism," he said.

A university spokesman said there would be no compulsory job losses and a process of "voluntary severance" was ongoing.

There was no immediate comment from student organisations. However, since February, students have been occupying the Hetherington Research Centre, which closed 18 months ago. Despite attempts to evict them, they have formed a focal point for protests against cuts.

Yesterday the protesters were joined by students from other universities, as well as some members of staff. Suzanne Ross, a student campaigner, said: "We think the cuts are completely unnecessary. They're strategic, they're not fi-

nancial. There's no need for these cuts at all. We're making it clear that we don't accept cuts to any of these incredibly valuable subjects at this university."

Protests were also taking place at the University of Strathclyde. A meeting of the senate was taking place there, although no decision on cuts, thought to amount to £12 million, will be taken until a meeting of the university's court later in the month.

Proposals include the introduction of a revitalised BA degree programme,

### 'Having seen the results, I don't think they have saved a single penny'

increased support for international-quality research and education across all six academic schools and the phased withdrawal from geography, music and community education. The teaching of sociology is also to be reconfigured.

A spokesman for the university said: "These proposals have been developed by academic leaders in humanities and social sciences to ensure that Strathclyde continues to build its reputation for international excellence in these disciplines."



# Chomsky jibe over 'MIT on Clyde' is welcomed

Praise for academic's observations about Strathclyde's cuts strategy

ANDREW DENHOLM  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STAFF and students from Strathclyde University have praised internationally acclaimed academic Professor Noam Chomsky's attack on plans to cut courses at the institution.

The Herald revealed yesterday that the pre-eminent figure in modern linguistics and renowned political activist had described as "very odd" plans by the university to cut courses in music, geography, community education and sociology.

Prof Chomsky's comments were particularly embarrassing because he is currently Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - one of the world's most successful private research universities.

Professor Jim McDonald, Principal of Strathclyde, has said his vision for the university is to turn it into an "MIT on the Clyde".

A spokesman for the Strathclyde University branch of the UCU lecturers' union said: "We welcome these comments from one of our greatest living intellectuals and most consistent opponents of philistine technocratic managerialism."

"Chomsky has exposed the fantasy that Strathclyde can become an 'MIT on the Clyde' while removing or minimising the provision of social sciences and humanities."

"The reality of MIT today is that these disciplines are regarded as an essential part of the education of all students."

The spokesman said that many Strathclyde academics thought the university's management were using "this absurd comparison with MIT" as a cover for its agenda of the situation, said: "It was interesting that the Principal of Strathclyde linked the closures to his vision of making the university the MIT of Scotland. I think the comments from Chomsky show how far that is from the truth."

Philip Whyte, president of the students' association, added: "He has shown absolutely that the definition this university has sought to carve out for itself is misguided."

attacking the social sciences and humanities. "We urge the university to think again and reject this extraordinarily risky and divisive strategy, which will otherwise damage the university's reputation, and lead to further conflict with the public, staff and students," he added.

Strathclyde University law student Bryan Simpson, who first alerted Prof Chomsky to



CUTS FIGHT: Strathclyde students clashed with police during demonstrations about the university's move to drop courses. Picture: Mark Gibson



LINGUIST: Prof Noam Chomsky is a world renowned academic.

accommodation costing around £25 million. "This faculty is the largest in the university and it will continue to deliver high-quality education and research in a range of disciplines, including law, government and public policy, English, history, languages, social work, teacher education and psychological sciences and health."

"Our provision of sociology teaching is being reshaped and we are excited about the opportunity that will bring to broaden the education and understanding of our students."

Strathclyde University agreed with Mr Chomsky's view that an international technological university should ensure its students were well prepared to

understand the role and impact of technology in broader society.

"This is exactly what we are striving to achieve and we recognise MIT's exemplary achievements in that area," she added.

"Our recent successes in attracting major support and investment in our strategic activities are testimony to the recognition that we are producing exactly the sort of graduates that such ambitious produce."

The Herald revealed earlier this month that Strathclyde's plans to axe courses in music, education, geography and history could cost up to 25 jobs from the faculty of humanities and social sciences.

## Glasgow University pulls back from financial brink

Continued from Page 1

of the issue, calling for no cuts to be made until after the Holyrood elections in May - when more would be known about the state of higher education funding.

Last night, Dave Anderson, president of the Glasgow University branch of the UCU lecturers' union, welcomed the

news - but questioned the university's cuts strategy. "We acknowledge the university has had to contend with a significant drop in funding, but the approach of targeting specific areas when the overall funding was unclear has had a massive impact on staff and student morale across campus," he said.

"Significant steps have been taken to address the projected funding shortfall through voluntary severance and a partial freeze on recruitment, which calls into question the decision to target areas for closure."

A spokesman for the Cordell Group of Glasgow University academics, who opposed the cuts, added: "The fallout from

management's handling of this, down of trust in the institution."

"Short-term panic attacks, open as possible with staff about the genuine financial realities faced by the university at all times. And he said the proposed course cuts were driven primarily by strategic priorities rather than cost savings."

managers rather than academics. However, Mr Muscatelli said he had tried to be as open as possible with staff about the genuine financial realities faced by the university at all times. And he said the proposed course cuts were driven primarily by strategic priorities rather than cost savings.

### Woman among four dead in blast

A WOMAN fire officer was among four people who died in a blast at an oil refinery. The female, who like the other victims has not yet been named, was employed by owners Chevron on fire-watch duties when the blast happened at Pembroke Dock, Wales, on Thursday. The refinery was closed yesterday as a mark of respect.

### Herald readership increases by 7000

THE Herald's readership has risen by 7000 people to 152,000. The National Readership Survey also found our sister paper, the Sunday Herald, gained 6,000 readers between April last year and March this year. A spokesman said: "These figures show how valued and influential The Herald and Sunday Herald are in Scotland."

### Shopper awarded £10,500 over slip

A SHOPPER has secured a £10,500 payout after slipping on a grape in a branch of Asda. The firm apologised for not meeting its own "high standards" after the fall at a Peterborough store. Peterborough County Court ordered Asda to award Thomas Wardle £10,500 in damages - and pay £18,000 in legal costs.

### Dr Kevorkian dead

ASSISTED suicide advocate Dr Jack Kevorkian, known as "Dr Death" for helping more than 100 people end their lives, died yesterday at 83. Kevorkian died in Michigan from a blood clot in his heart. **Obituaries: Page 18**

### Boy stranded by tide is rescued

A YOUNG boy has had to be rescued after he walked along a pipeline and became stranded when the tide came in. His mother called the coastguard which sent a lifeboat to pick him up. The rescue crew was assembled shortly after 2pm yesterday in South Queensferry.

**University 'will run out of cash in 2013'**

WARREN: The Herald reported on the crisis in September 2010.

# Students in sit-in over course cuts

STUDENTS from Strathclyde University occupied a number of rooms overnight in a campus building in a protest over course cuts.

A small group occupied the Geography and Sociology department in the Graham Hills building in George Street, in Glasgow city centre.

The university's ruling Court was meeting today to decide on the fate of a number of courses.

The university is planning to get rid of courses in music, community education, geography and sociology.

Up to 25 jobs could be lost

from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences under the proposals, which could save the university £750,000.

A spokesman for Strathclyde University said: "The occupation involves a very small number of individuals and has no impact on our operations."

Philip Whyte, president of the Strathclyde Students' Association, said: "Staff and students have been united in their condemnation of these proposals, and the impact they will have on the university and the wider community."

Tuesday June 28 2011 EVENING TIME:

## Students take direct action



STUDENTS from Strathclyde University in Glasgow have occupied a number of rooms in a campus building in a protest over course cuts.

A small group of demonstrators was intending to stay overnight in the Geography and Sociology department in the Graham Hills building on George Street.

The occupation came on the eve of a crucial meeting of the

university's ruling Court today, which will decide on the fate of a number of courses.

The Herald revealed last month that the university is planning to get rid of courses in music, community education, geography and sociology.

Up to 25 jobs could be lost from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences under the proposals, which could save the university £750,000.

A spokesman for Strathclyde University said: "The views of our students are important to the university and, throughout this consultation, we have listened very carefully to what students have had to say."

"The occupation involves a very small number of individuals and it has no impact on our operations."

Picture: Colin Templeton



# The Herald

FOUNDED ON MONDAY JANUARY 27, 1783

## Principles for our principals

**T**ODAY'S meetings of Glasgow University Court and Strathclyde University Senate will be vital ones. Each institution has been in the eye of a storm of sustained criticism following proposals by the principal to end some courses and cut facilities to meet anticipated budget deficits.

At Glasgow, Professor Anton Muscatelli proposed a £30m package of cuts to modern languages, nursing, anthropology and social work, closing the Centre for the Study of Drug Misuse, reducing evening and weekend courses and ending liberal arts at the Crichton campus in Dumfries. The proposals unleashed a wave of anger from students, staff and graduates whose response forced the university to institute a proper consultation process. The university court must make its decisions today in the light of that consultation. It will be made much easier by the recent announcement by Professor Muscatelli that nearly £18m in savings has been found from redundancies and freezing posts and, with an additional £15m in fees from overseas postgraduate students, he now expects a surplus.

Nevertheless, if, as he argued, there was good reason for closing some courses in addition to saving costs, that must now be put to the test. If, for example, it would improve standards by amalgamating courses offered by two universities in the same city in the one institution, that should be properly explored.

At Strathclyde, Professor Jim McDonald's plans include ending courses in music, education, geography and sociology in a package to save £750,000. They have provoked wide opposition because the closures are seen as the first step towards narrowing the focus of the university to a technology institution.

The advantage in developing key areas of expertise would be the ability to attract funding for research but it appears this decision has again been made without sufficient consultation. Professor McDonald's ambition for

Strathclyde to be among the foremost technology institutions is laudable. In pursuit of his dream of making it "MIT on the Clyde" (a Scottish equivalent of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), however, he appears in danger of failing to recognise how much the arts and culture are part of the mix in Massachusetts.

The importance attached to cultural facilities by the wider community in Glasgow as well as students and staff became so apparent in the protest against proposals to sell the Ramsburn Theatre and Collins Gallery that they have been granted a stay of execution with the idea that they could become charitable trusts.

Today the Strathclyde senate will be presented with a motion signed by 50 academic staff calling for a decision on the future of courses to be delayed until September. Given the lack of consultation and some dispute about information concerning the threatened courses, postponement would appear wise if it enables decisions to be based on more accurate facts and figures.

In producing what have appeared to be arbitrary packages of cuts, both universities have not only generated controversy but undermined confidence in the range of courses taught and subject areas available for research in their institutions.

The future funding of higher education in Scotland is one of the most urgent issues facing the Scottish Government after discussion of the Green Paper on the issue was halted by the election.

That unfinished business must now be tackled and, with a multi-million pound funding gap looming, difficult decisions will be inevitable. As independent bodies, however, the universities themselves must establish the principles on which any cuts are based. So far, Glasgow and Strathclyde have provided an object lesson in how not to go about it. They, and the other Scottish universities, must now ensure that the high standards of learning and thinking of which they boast are applied to the management of their own institutions.

## EDUCATION

# Students hail protest success

'No more cuts' occupation victory

by Rory MacKinnon

STUDENT activists at Glasgow University were ecstatic yesterday following news that their seven-month occupation had secured a "no more cuts" guarantee from management.

Residents at the Free Hetherington — a former postgraduate social club closed down by the university and then seized by demonstrators in February — voted on Sunday night to accept a deal that would see them abandon the building in return for an end to course and student services cuts and no compulsory redundancies.

A spokeswoman for the group said the building was "packed. There were so many people there for the vote, it was overwhelming."

"There was a real party atmosphere afterwards — we're absolutely ecstatic."

Details were still being hammered out, she said, but the negotiations were "pretty finalised."

The only thing to stop the group leaving in the next few weeks would be if the university reneged on the agreement, she said.

The group was now planning to mark their departure with a thank you event for the hundreds of local people who had visited and offered support, she said.

The occupation hit national headlines in March when do-

zens of Strathclyde Police stormed the building alongside university security, evicting 15 residents and arresting four in an operation involving attack dogs and a helicopter.

But the students quickly turned the tide, leading a march across campus and an impromptu sit-in at the University's Senate which ended with university management inviting them to return to the Hetherington instead.

Insiders say the Free Hetherington could become a template for future student occupations. While most protesters occupy symbolic areas like administrative blocks and lecture theatres, the Hetherington's kitchen and toilet facilities allowed organisers to co-ordinate a long-term self-sustaining community.

After seven months, it is the longest-running student occupation in Britain's history.

Glasgow University's management said that the institution had always respected the right of students to peaceful protest.

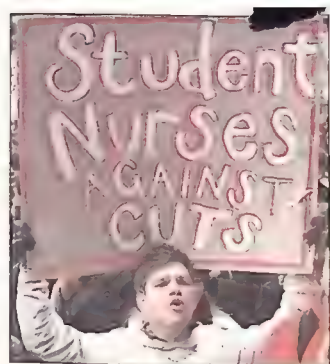
The university also recognised "the depth of feeling there has been on campus about recent cost reductions."

"A new social facility for postgraduate students will open in the main building in session 2011-12 and the university will continue to consult with students and their representatives on future facilities and amenities for the student body," it concluded.

rorym@peoples-press.com



# Thousands hit streets against Uni cutbacks



Healing power of protest: Student nurses in Glasgow's west end

UNIVERSITY bosses last night defended cuts plans after students took to the streets in protest.

Trainee nurses and language learners were among those protesting at Glasgow University.

More than 2,000 people took part but the university court still passed a consultation on course closures and mergers.

The changes are part of plans to save £20million by 2012-13 but would reduce current spending by just £3million in 2010-11.

The university said the changes were designed to 'maximise the quality' of teaching and research.

However, Fraser Sutherland, of the Students' Representative Council, said students were very angry about plans to merge history, archaeology and classics, while axing anthropology and social work courses.

A review of the centre for drugs misuse research could also be held, with

By Kirsteen Paterson

evening and weekend classes reduced. Several language courses may also be removed, including German and Italian.

A university spokesman said: 'This university is responding in a planned and strategic way to the cuts in public funding.'

'The university court has agreed to a consultation being carried out into a number of academic areas.'

'This is to allow the university to strategically prioritise its activity and to maximise the quality of our teaching and research, so we can continue to be one of the world's great broad-based research intensive universities.'

However, Mr Sutherland said: 'Those from the areas where cuts have been proposed – nursing and modern languages – are shocked and very angry, but other students are looking at this and thinking: "what next?"'



Peaceful: Foreign language students were among the demonstrators





DEMONSTRATION: Glasgow University students and staff marched through the campus yesterday in protest at the cuts. Picture: Jamie Simpson

## Anger as university scraps courses

Continued from Page 2

university was in a strong position. He added: "The difficult decisions that have been addressed, coupled with the work that has been done to turn around our finances, means the future prospects for the continued excellence of the university are extremely promising."

"We will continue to provide a

world-class learning and teaching environment, and look forward to the future development and success of the university with considerable optimism."

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde University said: "The university's academic community overwhelmingly endorsed plans designed to strengthen its Faculty of Humanities and

Social Sciences. These proposals have been developed by academic leaders in Humanities and Social Sciences to ensure that Strathclyde continues to build its reputation for international excellence in these disciplines."

"The faculty's plans will ensure resources are focused on existing areas of strength for the benefit of students, staff and the wider community."

Sandra White, SNP MSP for Glasgow Kelvin, said: "Just last year Anton Muscatelli spoke of the importance of the programme to the future of the university and its international outlook."

"I am pleased the university has taken on board some of the concerns previously raised. However, this decision is a serious step backwards."

# University to press ahead with cuts despite protest

Students and staff from threatened departments take to streets of Glasgow

ANDREW DENHOLM  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALARMING Scottish university is to press ahead with a controversial consultation on a raft of course cuts as part of moves to save cash.

The decision by Glasgow University's ruling court came as more than 2000 students took to the streets to protest over the proposals.

Students and staff from threatened departments marched along streets close to the university in Glasgow's west end before holding a rally in the main quad.

There was a heavy police presence both inside and outside the university - including support from Strathclyde Police helicopter - but the protest passed off peacefully.

Last week, The Herald revealed the university has drawn up a list of proposed cuts, including the closing of modern languages such as French, German, Italian, Russian and Polish.

Other courses facing cuts include nursing, anthropology and social work, and the university is seeking a review of its high profile Centre for Drug Misuse Research.

The university is also considering cutting back its provision of evening and weekend classes which cater for up to 5000 adult learners a year.

The proposals state the university's major management group are part of a strategy to find £20m in savings by 2013.

Protesters claim the cuts will damage the university's international reputation and restrict choice.

Michael Young, a 25-year-old nursing student, said: "We will very soon realise that one of the very best universities in Scotland is being cut back and cutting it makes absolutely no sense."

Tom Hargreaves, a 25-year-old student in the final year of a business and German degree, also expressed concern.

"What is troubling is the fact that everybody has to look at the political spectrum to decide the need for courses with language skills, but Glasgow University is doing the opposite. It makes no sense."

And Stephen Ashby, 30, a PhD sociology student, attacked the threat to widening participation in education.

It is absolutely vital the university must start to offer choice to students. They seem to want to shut down

Shoppers in courses plus



Protesters from the Herald reported opposition to the cuts yesterday.

critical thought," he said. The rally was also attended by the award-winning novelist Al Kennedy, who has been invited to lead the post of university rector.

Attacking moves to cut courses for adult learners, Mr Kennedy said: "The university appears to be repeating old links with the wider community and focusing on a very narrow business model that will not help students get jobs in the wider economy."

However, a spokesman for Glasgow University said the consultation was responding to a planned and strategic way to unprecedented financial pressures.

"Our approach is two-fold - to ensure more income and to pursue cost savings," he said.

"After a major management group review of all aspects of our work, the university court has agreed to a consultation being carried out into a number of academic areas."

This is a welcome move to strengthen, prioritise its activity and to ensure the quality of our teaching and research, so we can continue to be one of the world's great broad-based research-intensive universities.

Can we have the university to general - worried that the consultation could run out of money by 2013 if they took no action to address cuts in public funding.

In addition to securing the university's future, we are seeking to find significant savings through a voluntary severance scheme.

And all non-academic departments such as estates, libraries, student support, human resources, finance and corporate communications will have to find cuts of between 15% and 15%.

Following the consultation, the proposals will be brought back to another meeting of court in May.

Leaders comment Page 14



PEACEFUL PROTEST: Despite a large police presence, including a helicopter, the protest remained peaceful. Glasgow University was off without major incident.

## Scots seats of learning satisfy students

ANDREW DENHOLM

SCOTTISH universities have performed strongly in a new survey of student satisfaction.

Scotland University was the top Scottish institution coming first in the list as the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2016.

There were two more Scottish universities in the UK top 20 - Glasgow University at seventh and St Andrews at 12th.

Spring University came 24th and Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, came 25th.

Edinburgh University came 26th with Brunel University 27th, although it topped the annual poll to find the best university according to students.

The survey asked more than 70,000 undergraduates to rate their university on 21 different aspects of university life that contribute to a great all-round experience.

Ann Mee, editor of the Times Higher Education, said: "Our annual survey is well established as a benchmark of the student experience at each university."

"Unlike other polls, it asks students themselves to rate the factors they see as important, from the quality of teaching to the non-academic aspects of university life that contribute to a great all-round experience."

## Students and staff from threatened departments take to streets of Glasgow

**A LEADING** Scottish university is to press ahead with a controversial consultation on a raft of course cuts as part of moves to save £20 million.

The decision by Glasgow University's ruling court came as more than 2000 students took to the streets to protest over the proposed cuts.

Students and staff from threatened departments marched along streets close to the university, in Glasgow's west end, before holding a rally in the main quadrangle.

There was a heavy police presence both inside and outside the university - including support from a Strathclyde Police helicopter - but the protest passed off peacefully.

Last week, The Herald revealed the university has drawn up a list of proposed cuts, including the axing of modern languages such as Czech, German, Italian, Russian and Polish.

Other courses facing cuts include nursing, anthropology and social work and the university is seeking a review of its high-profile Centre for Drugs Misuse Research.

The university is also considering cutting back its provision of evening and weekend classes, which cater for up to 5000 adult learners a week.

The proposals from the university's senior management group are part of a strategy to find £20m in savings by 2012-13.

Yesterday, student protesters expressed their anger at the cuts, which they said would damage the university's international reputation and restrict choice

Megan Young, 19, a second-year nursing student, said: "We are all very upset because this is one of the very best courses of its kind in Scotland and cutting it makes

Tom Hargreaves, a 23-year-old student in the final year of a history and German degree, also expressed concern

"What is galling is the fact that everywhere you look in the business world and across the political spectrum you hear of the need for graduates with language skills.

And Stephen Ashe, 30, a PhD sociology student, attacked

"It is absolutely vital the university continues to offer choice to students. They

seem to want to shut down



Yohanna  
who got  
at her  
around



**FIGHT:** How The Herald reported

critical thought," he said. The rally was also attended by the award-winning novelist AL Kennedy, who has been invited

to stand for the post of university rector

• Attacking moves to cut courses for adult learners, Ms Kennedy said "The university appears to be removing all links with

the wider community and focusing on a very narrow business model that will not help students get jobs in the wider economy."

Glasgow University said the institution was responding in a planned and strategic way to unprecedented financial pressures.

"After a senior management

**“The university appears to be removing all links with the community and**

**with the community and focusing on a very narrow business model**

work, the university court has agreed to a consultation being carried out into a number of academic areas.

This is to allow the university to strategically prioritise its activity and to maximise the quality of our teaching and research, so we can continue to be one of the

Last year, Anton Muscatelli, the university principal, warned that the institution could run out of

In addition to course cuts, the university is seeking to fine-

And all non-academic departments, such as

departments such as estates, libraries, student support, human resources, finance and corporate communications will have

Following the consultation, the proposals will be brought back to another



**PEACEFUL PROTEST:** Despite a large police presence, including a helicopter, the protest march against course cuts at Glasgow University went off without major incident. Main Picture: Gordon Tiers

## ANDREW DENHOF M

SCOTTISH universities have performed strongly in a new survey of student satisfaction. Dundee University was the top Scottish institution coming fifth in the UK in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2010.

There were two more Scottish universities in the UK top 20 ~ Glasgow University at seventh and St Andrews at 12th

Stirling University came 24th and Robert Gordon University, in Aberdeen, came 25th.

Edinburgh University came 29th with Strathclyde 30th. Loughborough topped the annual poll to find the best university according to students. The survey asked more than 13,000 undergraduates to rate their university on 21 different factors, from the quality of teaching to the social life on campus.

Ann Mroz, editor of the Times Higher Education, said: "Our annual survey is well established as a benchmark of the student experience at each university.

"Unlike other polls, it asks students themselves to rate the factors they see as important, from the quality of teaching to the non-academic aspects of university life that contribute to a great all-round experience."





# Students plan protests over course cuts at universities

**ANDREW DENHOLM**  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of students will hold demonstrations today over controversial proposals to cut courses at two of Scotland's leading universities.

A protest will be held at Glasgow University as the institution's ruling Court meets to decide on a raft of threatened subjects.

The university has already stepped back from some of its more radical proposals, but there is still uncertainty over nursing, Slavonic studies and a pioneering drug centre.

Liberal arts programmes delivered from its Dumfries campus are also under threat and there are fears over some evening and weekend courses.

Another rally will be held at Strathclyde University,



**WARNING: Students' union president Liam Burns.**

where the Senate, which represents academics, will debate whether to call for a delay to cuts there.

The university has faced criticism over plans to get rid of courses in music, community education, geography and sociology.

Strathclyde said the subjects identified were under-performing in research, not financially

viable and no longer core to its strategy of becoming a leading European technological university.

However, there has been a backlash from staff and students, and criticism from high-profile individuals, including leading academic Professor Noam Chomsky.

Despite the opposition the university's Academic Development Group has recommended Strathclyde presses ahead with the closures. As a result, a motion will be put to the Senate calling for no decisions to be made until September because of a lack of time for consultation.

Liam Burns, president of NUS Scotland, which represents students, said: "The protests show students will not accept principals playing fast and loose with subjects at universities."

Dave Anderson, president of the Glasgow University branch of lecturers' union, UCU Scotland, said: "We will be looking for the court to ensure Slavonic studies and nursing are provided with suitable investment to allow them to develop, rather than cutting them."

Neil Davidson, vice president of the Strathclyde University branch of UCU, added: "The only way a real decision can be made is to have a postponement."

A spokesman for Glasgow University said: "Court will decide on a range of recommendations and innovative proposals that are intended to strengthen the position of the university and ensure it continues to provide a world class learning and teaching experience."

**Leader comment: Page 14**

# Anger as uni bosses vote to axe courses

**Day of protests as cuts cast doubts on jobs**

**By ANDREW DENHOLM**

**BOSSSES** at Glasgow University have voted to axe a raft of courses despite months of protest from academics and students.

The cuts by the ruling Board will result in the closure of a high-profile drug misuse research centre, an end to Slavonic Studies and the scrapping of a stand-alone Liberal Arts programme at its Dumfries campus.

There is also continued doubt over the future of the nursing courses, which have been given a stay of execution for a year pending a Scotland-wide review of training provision.

Some evening and weekend courses for adult learners may also be scaled back as grant support for the Open Programme is now set to be phased out.

The university will also continue its withdrawal from social work courses.

A university spokes-

woman said it would be doing "everything possible" to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Meanwhile, the city's Strathclyde University also moved closer to a range of cuts in its academic provision after a meeting of the Senate, the body that represents academics.

The university had faced criticism over plans to axe courses in music, community education, geography and sociology and the Senate had been asked to back calls for a delay by the lecturers' union, University and College Union Scotland.

However, the Senate rejected the delay and

**The implications for staff in these areas remains far from clear**

voted in favour of pressing ahead with the cuts, which will now go to the Court next week.

Dave Anderson, president of the Glasgow University branch of the UCU, said: "The implications for staff in these areas remain far from clear."

"We accept the university has had to con-

tend with a 10% drop in public funding, but cost reductions have already addressed this and there is now no financial reason to cut jobs.

"The way the consultations have been handled has had a devastating impact on staff morale and demonstrates clearly the need for academic decisions to be made by academic bodies and not senior managers."

At Strathclyde, Bill Johnston, of the UCU branch, said: "This is a travesty of academic decision-making. The Senate has set a dangerous precedent."

News of the cuts came after a day in which students from both universities staged rallies in their respective campuses.

Professor Anton Muscatelli said: "The difficult decisions that have been addressed, coupled with the work that has been done to turn around our finances, means the future prospects for the continued excellence of the university are extremely promising."

Sandra White, SNP MSP for Glasgow Kelvin, said the cuts were "a serious step backwards."



**Budget blockade:** A police officer tries to move protesters blocking the road outside the Treasury building in central London yesterday. They were trying to stop chancellor George Osborne from delivering his speech in the Commons. 'This budget has been written for the benefit of big business and the banking sector, not for ordinary people,' said protester Sara Ayooch. *Picture: AP*

# There's no hope here, say unions

BUSINESS and union opinion was predictably split over the measures introduced in yesterday's budget.

Union leaders said George Osborne had done little to ease the squeeze on hard-pressed families, while businesses welcomed tax breaks and a simplification of the tax system.

'There is no message of hope in this budget for the millions of Britons and their families facing massive cuts in their living standards,' said GMB general secretary Paul Kenny.

Unite general secretary Len McCluskey dismissed the budget as merely 'rearranging the furniture'.

He said: 'Growth is shrinking, unemployment is on the rise, wages are falling or stagnant and this government is creating a lost generation of young people.'

'No one should be fooled by this budget, it's a mirage from the architect of the most devastating cuts to jobs and services in generations.'

**By John Higginson**

TUC general secretary Brendan Barber echoed Mr McCluskey, calling it a 'no-change' budget.

He welcomed the measures for funding apprenticeships and relief on fuel duty but said much of the remainder was gimmicky.

Working Families chief executive Sarah Jackson said more should have been done to reduce the cost of childcare. 'Increasing personal tax allowances are good for those in work but the childcare cuts due next month will lead low income parents - particularly mothers - to give up work,' she said.

However, Miles Templeman of the Institute of Directors welcomed the measures. 'This was a budget aimed at changing perceptions and boosting business confidence about long-term economic prospects in the UK. The chancellor didn't have much money to play with but he played his hand well,' he said.

**SCOTTISH finance secretary**

John Swinney accused the chancellor of using North Sea resources to fuel his budget while giving Scotland 'far too little in return'. He said oil and gas revenues have hit an all-time record level, £48 billion up on the previous forecast, and should have been used to bring fuel duty down by 5p. He added that, if the move was applied in Scotland, petrol prices could come down by 50p. Mr Swinney said: 'No wonder the Con/Dem coalition oppose financial responsibility for Scotland and control of our own revenues.' Scottish Labour leader Iain Gray accused George Osborne of bringing forward a 'no-growth budget' that fails to address Scottish jobs.



# Russell university backlash

**Education Secretary under fire over course cut remarks**

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**ANDREW DENHOLM**  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND'S Education Secretary is facing a public backlash over his outspoken attack on the running of one of the country's leading universities.

A senior figure in higher education urged Michael Russell - and other politicians - to stay out of the day-to-day running of universities.

David Caldwell, a former director of Universities Scotland, which represents university principals, warned any future inter-

vention risked the autonomy of Scottish higher education.

"The attack came after Mr Russell called for an immediate intervention on plans for course cuts at Glasgow University, describing them as "perverse" and based on "false figures".

The minister also said a botched attempt to eject student protesters from a university building last week, and the subsequent backlash from staff and students, represented a "failure" by the institution.

Mr Russell was speaking out during a visit to the university, which is currently consulting on proposals to make savings of

£3 million by cutting courses. The cuts have been unpopular with staff and students and some want the process to be put on hold until after the election a call echoed by Mr Russell.

Mr Caldwell, who stepped down as director of Universities Scotland in 2009, said: "It is unusual for a politician to get so strongly involved in commenting on management decisions within a particular institution and it is unhelpful if this becomes a regular practice if continued it could significantly threaten university autonomy."

"University autonomy is important and should be protected and, on the whole, politicians have been very good about doing this."

"I would urge politicians of all parties to continue to respect



**Russell attacks university over 'perverse' plan to cut courses**  
**OUTSPOKEN** The Herald told of Mr Russell's comments yesterday.

the autonomy of institutions and remain at arm's length from management decisions."

Des McNulty, education spokesman for the Scottish Labour Party, also attacked the remarks by Mr Russell calling them "rank hypocrisy".

"The proposals at Glasgow, and similar reductions else-

where, are a direct result of SNP budget decisions which plunged Scotland's world-class universities into financial difficulties," he said.

"Ministers should not be seeking to dictate to universities or bully them."

Tommy Gore, president of Glasgow University's Student Representative Council, disagreed with Mr Russell's call for a moratorium on cuts.

"We are at a stage where the consultation is nearly over and it would do more damage if we had to go over it again," he said.

"We don't want to put the staff and students in the affected areas under any more pressure than they already are - they are the ones suffering the most."

Meanwhile, Chris Sibbald, president of Glasgow University

Union, said the views of the majority of students were being lost because of the publicity surrounding the occupation of the Hetherington Club by anti-cuts demonstrators.

Dozens of police were deployed last week after an attempt by campus security guards to get protesters to leave quickly got out of control.

Mr Sibbald said: "The Hetherington protesters are making a lot of noise, but they are disrupting the genuine dialogue about the cuts at the university that is taking place between officials and student representatives."

"They are undermining all the hard work we have been doing and the majority of students believe the students in the Hetherington are a distraction and are costing us time and money."

**Outrage at police treatment of student protester**

**HEATHER WILLIAMS**

STAFF at Glasgow University are "outraged" over the treatment of a female student by police following the controversial failed attempt to end the occupation of a building.

Kate Connelly, a 21-year-old theology and religious studies undergraduate, was arrested twice - once wrongly through mistaken identity.

It is also claimed she was forced to get dressed in front of a female officer.

A complaint has been now registered by Richard King, professor of religious studies at the university, who has raised concerns that Strathclyde Police said there were no arrests or injuries. Three students were reportedly arrested and charged with offences.

Protesters were removed following a seven-week sit-in at the Hetherington Building last Tuesday. But they have since returned, after storming the main university building in an attempt to confront the principal, Anton Muscatelli.

Strathclyde Police, who in the wake of severe criticism over what some have described as a "heavy-handed" operation - said they used "no more than 40 officers" and denied acting inappropriately.

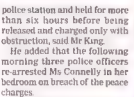
Mr King said academic staff in the Theology and Religious Studies Department are composing a letter to Mr Muscatelli expressing "outrage" at the treatment of one of our students who suffered concussion after allegedly being thrown against a wall during the police and security officers' "eviction".

He said Ms Connelly was denied access to water after she was arrested for obstructing the police and inciting violence.

After she was "eventually allowed" to go to hospital, where she was kept for an hour, she



**DETAINED** Three police officers take Kate Connelly to an ambulance after arresting her for obstructing the police and inciting violence at a student protest. Inset: Kate Connelly.



charges dropped. Police claimed it was a case of mistaken identity, said Mr King.

Ms Connelly has been consulting the university's law



department and forming a case to get the obstruction charge dropped. She is also considering a counter-claim of assault.

The Free Hetherington

**PROTEST**  
Students occupy the Hetherington Building to demonstrate against planned university cuts.

campaigners are now organising a "Kate Connelly is Innocent" campaign.

Mr King said in an email: "One of our Theology and Religious Studies students, Kate Connelly, suffered a concussion after allegedly being thrown against a wall by police security during the eviction."

"I have spoken to her. She is a very good and well-mannered, honourable student on my Buddhism course, and she assures me she did nothing to justify this charge and, in fact, is a strong advocate of non violent approaches to activism."

Felix Harvey, a Green candidate for Holyrood, condemned

the attempt to eject student protesters from the Hetherington Building as "barbaric" and a "shameful waste of police time".

A Strathclyde Police spokeswoman was unable to confirm last night that a complaint had been made. She said: "At all times officers have to be aware of the safety of the detained person, and must ensure they have not concealed anything which could be used to cause physical injury to themselves or to others. This would also apply to the possession of drugs."

"We would welcome anyone who has any concerns to contact us."

# WE'RE HERE TO STAY

Andy leads  
occupation  
protest at  
university



FRONTLINE: The university protest

By CAMERON HAY

**IT'S been 10 long weeks since Ralston man Andy Bowden had a quiet night at home.**

For 25-year-old Andy, right, is one of a small band of protesters leading the student occupation of a Glasgow University building in the city's west end.

The unemployed honours graduate has been holed up with around 70 rotating regulars at the Hetherington Research Club since February 1.

Protesters moved in en masse when the university announced that the building, which students were using as a clubhouse, was to become offices at the same time as £20m of cuts were being imposed.

Behind the club's white-pillared doorway the walls are adorned with newspaper cuttings and messages of support from the many people and personalities who have visited since the place was stormed by police in a high-profile raid.

It has spiralled since the involving up to 100 police officers and a hovering helicopter



"forcibly removed" students from the premises on March 22 - only for the university to allow them back in next day.

Andy, a genetics graduate and committed socialist, said: "I think it is one of the longest-running student occupations in the UK. We've been here since February 1.

"The reason for the occupation is that the Hetherington Research Club was gifted to the students at Glasgow

University. It was closed down last year due to financial mismanagement and the university was due to convert the space into offices.

"This was given to students as a social space and the decision to convert it prompted us to occupy the building."

Subsequently, Andy admits, it has also become a beacon of light for many anti-cut supporters, political activists and politicians who are against the UK Government's "deep and damaging" cuts to the public sector.

But he insists that the main thrust of the protest is the proposed cuts to courses such as nursing, languages, archaeology and adult education at the university designed to save £20 million by 2014.

The occupiers have received support from many familiar faces including one time rock star and left-wing activist Billy Bragg, Scotland's national poet Liz Lochhead, American folk singer David Rovics and politician Patrick Harvie MSP.

Even film maker Ken Loach popped in for dinner to give the campaign his backing.

The police action last month has even led for a call by sections of the

student body for university principal Anton Muscatelli to resign.

More than 3,500 people are now supporters through social networking website Facebook and polls on university-run Sub City Radio suggests that more than 40 per cent back the occupation.

Andy, who was in London last month to campaign against government cuts, explained: "It is like a mini-community within the Hetherington Club. We are all working together for one thing and we are getting a lot of support from across the country.

"Now it is a hub for fighting cuts all over, not just at the university."

He added: "It was meant to be a club for post-graduates but now we want to include the wider community.

"This is a non-commercial space for everyone now.

"We are willing to stay here as long as we have people to run it.

"What we want is the Hetherington Club to become a place in the community, run democratically by the students, as a non-commercial space for those who want to fight social injustice."

## **EDUCATION**

### **Day X4—cause chaos on campus**

STUDENTS HAVE returned to their campuses rejuvenated after successful demonstrations in London and Manchester last month.

At Glasgow university, students have occupied a disused postgraduate centre, Hetherington Research Club, and turned it into a centre of resistance.

Banners hang at the front of the building saying "Occupied" and "Welcome to Free Hetherington".

They have linked the national campaign against cuts to the local demands to re-open the building.

The students have been in occupation since 1 February.

Over a hundred students pass through the occupied building each day, where the occupiers serve free lunches and hold meetings.

The UCU union branch secretary has visited the occupation along with other union members.

Students have pledged their support for any industrial action by lecturers.



# The Herald

THURSDAY JUNE 23, 2011

220TH YEAR No. 127 90p

## Rangers target Wallace as Whittaker refuses new deal

See Sport

## Film Festival to begin casting for role of director

Page 9

FORWARD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

# Fury as university goes ahead with course cuts

ANDREW DENHOLM  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE use has fallen on a raft of courses at one of Scotland's leading universities despite months of protest from academics and students.

Glasgow University's ruling Court voted to push through a series of cuts that will result in the closure of a high profile design course, research centre and the Glasgow School of Art, and the scrapping of a stand-alone Liberal Arts programme at its Dumbarton Campus.

There is also increased uncertainty over the future of nursing, which has been given a nod of approval for a year pending a Scottish referendum on devolution.

Some evening and weekend courses for adult learners may also be axed but after it was agreed that support for the Open Programme would be phased out.

The university will also continue as with dramatic from some major courses.

However, some of the most vibrant organisations for cuts, such as cutting about 10 per cent of the Open Programme.

The cuts are being implemented in the wake of a university spokeswoman said that the cuts are "a necessary step" to ensure the university's financial survival.

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## Ruling Court ignores campaign to save studies

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## Judge turns down Sheridan appeal bid

TOMMY Sheridan has been refused leave to appeal his conviction and three years in prison, lawyers say.

The judge who made the decision to send him to prison for three years under the new law, Lord Justice of Appeal, Lord Justice of Appeal, Lord Justice of Appeal.

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# Old Firm attack on 'rushed' sectarian law plans

Clubs say new legislation is being introduced too quickly

ROBBIE DINWOODIE  
CHIEF SCOTTISH POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Old Firm have dealt a hammer blow to the Scottish Government's plans for anti-sectarian legislation by attacking the way it is being rushed through.

notice of the outline of the legislation itself. We have not, therefore, been given anything like sufficient opportunity to scrutinise the legal or practical effects of the proposed legislation or the questions and issues arising."

The football authorities have fully backed the latest of measures



Students at Glasgow University protesting against the cuts. Photo: James Simpson

## craps courses

These proposals have been developed by academics in Humanities and Social Sciences to ensure that the university continues to build its reputation for international excellence in these disciplines. The faculty's plans will ensure resources are focused on areas of strength for the benefit of students, staff and the community.

Sandra White, SNP MSP for Glasgow Kelvin, said: "Just last year Anton Muscatelli spoke of the importance of the programme to the future of the university and its international outlook. I am pleased the university has taken on board some of the concerns previously raised. However, this decision is a serious step backwards."

## ns in further doubt

Minister, people from the law of Edinburgh have been asked to prepare an independent review of the tram plan. The signatories, Allan Ross and Allan Ross, said: "We need Audit Scotland to look at these figures. It may not be a business case, but it is a business case. It is worth the cost of 'scrapping it'."

"It's only proper that council members are briefed on the content of this report prior to publication to help inform their decision. The costs associated with the various options for phase one of the tram project are still subject to commercial negotiations and legal scrutiny. "In accordance with the outcomes of the mediation process in March we cannot publicly divulge these figures until both parties have agreed to do so."

Councillors will also have to consider the impact the rows will have on next year's council elections, with trams expected to be a key hustings issue.

## Grand Prix death was misadventure

A SCOTS competitor at the Isle of Man motorcycle grand prix was killed by "sheer bad luck". An inquest heard Royal Navy petty officer James Adam, 28, from Preswick, East Ayrshire, died through misadventure at the event in September last year. Mr Adam died at the scene after coming off his bike and hitting the kerb.

## Car crash victim named by police

A WOMAN who died in a head-on car crash on a city bypass has been named by police. Yvonne Malone, 31, was killed in the collision on the A720 in Edinburgh in the early hours of Sunday morning. Ms Malone was one of two drivers to lose their lives when a car strayed into oncoming traffic on the outskirts of the city.

## Chef Kitchin wins restaurant award

TOM Kitchin's Michelin-starred restaurant The Kitchin has been named the UK's number one restaurant at a prestigious awards ceremony. The Leith restaurant pipped the likes of The Fat Duck and Andrew Fairlie at Glenelg to the gong at the BMW Square Meal Awards. Kitchin said the accolade was "fantastic".



GRAMMY-winning singer Glen Campbell, 75, famous for his chart-topping 1970s hit 'Rhinestone Cowboy', has pledged to continue to perform and produce songs despite being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

## Al Capone's gun sells for £67,250

A REVOLVER belonging to gangster Al Capone was sold for £67,250 at auction. The gun was made in May 1929, just months after the Chicago mobster ordered the murder of seven of his rivals in the St Valentine's Day Massacre. The Colt .38 was sold at Christie's auction house in London.

# Row over college legal bills

Universities are spending public money on lawyers, writes Mark Macaskill

SCOTTISH universities and colleges are paying out millions of pounds in legal fees, prompting accusations of a "breakdown in governance" at the country's top academic establishments.

Documents obtained under freedom of information reveal the extent to which public money allocated for higher education is used to fund expensive lawyers, including QCs.

Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen spent £1m between 2007 and 2010, while the University of Strathclyde, which stands to save £750,000 by scrapping some degrees and shedding up to 100 jobs, has been criticised for paying £670,000 for legal advice since 2008.

The Scottish Agricultural College spent almost £600,000 on lawyers, one-third of which was to finance its litigation. Edinburgh Napier university paid more than £560,000, while the University of Dundee spent £270,000 on legal advice "for matters concerning the disposal of property, employment and pensions".

The funding has been condemned by politicians, who questioned whether such expenditure is an appropriate use of public money.

The cuts proposed by Jim McDonald, the principal of the University of Strathclyde, led to a protest last week when about 100 students marched on the

university, chanting "Our principal has no principles".

The university has refused to divulge the reasons for the expenditure, but admitted that £350,000 was spent with Macdonald, a Glasgow-based firm of solicitors, while £137,000 went to the firm MacRoberts.

Another firm, Levy & McRae, which has been hired by McDonald and the university to manage its media exposure, was paid more than £50,000 between February and November last year.

Sandra White, the SNP's MSP for Glasgow Kelvin, said:

"I'm concerned about the lack of transparency in higher education. Here, we have Strathclyde spending a similar sum on lawyers as they will potentially save through these cuts, but we are not being told how this public money has been spent, or why. There's a real concern that there are too many cliques making key decisions in Scotland's universities and colleges."

Mary Senior, a spokeswoman for the University and College Union for Scotland, said: "We are concerned at the level of legal fees being incurred by universities."

"At Strathclyde we are concerned that public money is being used on lawyers while our members are being made redundant to save funding. The increased recourse to legal action shows there is a breakdown in management and governance in Strathclyde and other universities."

Other universities involved in recent legal battles include Strirling, which lost an employment tribunal last November that ruled it had failed to consult employees properly when it declined to renew fixed term contracts. The university had argued that because the staff were on fixed-term contracts, a law that requires employers to consult when 20 or more members of staff might be made redundant did not apply in this case.

McDonald has faced criticism in recent weeks over his vision to establish the University of Strathclyde as an internationally renowned technolog-

ical institution. There are plans to withdraw from degrees in music, community education, geography and sociology. Up to 25 jobs could be lost under the proposals which, it is estimated, could save the university about £750,000 as they are phased out.

Officials at the University of Strathclyde have previously announced hopes to reduce the workforce by more than 100 in 2011-12. A spokesman for the university insisted it was "a large and complex organisation", which required it to meet "significant legal obligations and take advice on a wide range of issues".

He added: "Legal fees are a very small proportion of our annual turnover of £20m, and all such expenditure is subject to independent audit and approval."

"It is misleading to compare one-off expenditure spread over three years with the university's strategic programme of investment and disinvestment, which will see recurrent savings of at least £12m a year, designed to strengthen our reputation as Scotland's leading international technological university."

White said: "I have written to the principal of the University of Strathclyde requesting a meeting as a matter of urgency. We need to ensure that while the university emphasises its specialities, it retains a broad range of subjects and that it caters for all. I hope that we can work constructively with the university to make them aware of this."



Students at Strathclyde protest after two were arrested during a demonstration against planned cuts to courses and jobs; inset, the university



# OUT AND IN



**YESTERDAY:** Police evict students from uni club

**TODAY:** Demonstrators  
move back into building



■ We're back ... the Glasgow Uni students

By CATRIONA STEWART

**S**TUDENTS forceably evicted after a 50-day sit-in at a Glasgow University building were back inside today. University bosses allowed them back into the Hetherington

Research Club in return for them ending an occupation of the main administration headquarters. The protest had sparked a three-hour police operation involving up to 100 officers, dogs and a helicopter.

FULL STORY — PAGE 3

# Reversal of uni fortunes as boss announces profit

Shock turnaround  
sees institution  
facing a surplus

## EXCLUSIVE

By ANDREW DENHOLM

GLASGOW University – which warned it could run out of money by 2013 unless it took action – is now expecting to make a surplus.

Earlier this year, the University announced a raft of cuts worth £20 million, but Professor Anton Muscatelli, the university principal, said voluntary redundancies, freezing of posts and overseas students' fees had helped turn around its fortunes.

Professor Muscatelli said nearly £18m in savings had already come from redundancies and not filling vacancies – a much higher figure than expected.

In addition, by 2015, the university is expecting to raise an extra £15m through the expansion of postgraduate courses for overseas students, who pay significant fees.

In a message to staff, Mr Muscatelli said: "I am delighted to tell you that, as a consequence of all our efforts, we are now in a good position with our 2011/12 budget and we are well placed for the years ahead."



Professor Anton Muscatelli, principal of cuts-hit Glasgow University

"On our central forecast and based on the savings identified and additional income growth, the university will not face a deficit in the years up to 2014-15."

**As a consequence of our efforts, we are now in a good position with our budget**

His comments are in contrast to those made in an email to staff just nine months ago, when he said that forecasts showed the university was facing a budget shortfall of £35m a year by the end of 2014-15.

"Whatever realistic forecast we use, it is clear that under these circumstances the university would run out of cash to support its operations some time in the calendar year 2013 unless corrective action is taken," he had said.

Shortly afterwards he announced a package of cuts that included scrapping several modern language courses, nursing, evening and weekend classes for the public and the high-profile Centre for Drugs Misuse Research.

Last night, Dave Anderson, president of the Glasgow University branch of the UCU lecturers' union said: "We

acknowledge that the University has had to contend with a significant drop in funding, however, the approach of targeting specific areas when the overall funding was unclear has had a massive impact on staff and student morale.

"Significant steps have been taken to address the projected funding shortfall through voluntary severance and a partial freeze on recruitment, which calls into question the decision to target areas for closure."

He added: "It is paramount that the Holyrood government bring forward their plans to address the funding shortfall faced by our universities."

LOL - THEY  
'FOUNO' MORE  
MONEY.  
DIRECT ACTION  
GETS THE GOODS!



## Britain

# Why did police charge only 11 rioters over the anti-cuts protests?

By Cahal Milmo, Nigel Morris and Kevin Rawlinson

MPS ARE demanding to know why the police arrested and charged so many peaceful protesters at Saturday's anti-cuts demonstration, while letting off those who attacked shops and banks and damaged monuments.

Demonstrators who took part in the sit-in at luxury grocer Fortnum & Mason, organised by campaign group UK Uncut, are bearing the brunt of police and prosecutors' attentions.

The Metropolitan Police detained 201 people on Saturday, as they battled break-away factions of activists targeting shops in London's West End. A total of 149 have been charged in connection with the protests – 138 of them (94 per cent) face criminal charges of aggravated trespass at the high-end store, with only 11 charged for the more violent protests elsewhere in the capital, including serious disturbances in the West End during which police were pelted with ammonia-filled lightbulbs.

Campaigners insist no major criminal damage was committed inside the

store, whose management said the only physical losses from the protest consisted of the theft of an unspecified number of bottles of wine and champagne. The company said the closure of its business on Saturday afternoon had cost it £80,000 in lost trade.

David Winnick MP, a senior Labour member of the Commons' home affairs select committee, said it was "very strange" that protesters involved in the Fortnum & Mason sit-in featured so heavily in the break down of those charged. "The people who went into Fortnum & Mason were not involved in violence," he said. "They were told that if they left the building they would not be charged, and they were. Why isn't it that the large majority of the arrests were of people who were engaging in violence?"

The Green MP Caroline Lucas also criticised police tactics: "That the majority of those arrested and charged on Saturday were not violent thugs posing a risk to others but participants in a peaceful sit-down protest betrays a serious failure of judgement."

Raj Chada, a solicitor representing



several of those arrested and a specialist in public order law, said that contrary to normal police practice it appeared that suspects had not been formally interviewed about the reason for their arrest. Instead, detained protesters were asked a single question before being charged with aggravated trespass, an offence originally drawn up to deal with hunt saboteurs.

Mr Chada said: "The manner in which these arrests were carried out raises a number of serious questions. Is the act of conducting a peaceful sit-in protest now being treated as a criminal act? On the information that we have to date, many of these

protesters should not have been arrested, let alone face the anguish of court proceedings several weeks away."

Organisers of the demonstration, who wanted to draw attention to the amount of tax paid by large corporations, claimed that protesters were "tricked" by police inside the store, who apparently gave assurances that anyone not suspected of criminal damage would be allowed to leave without being arrested.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said the force could not comment while criminal proceedings were active.

**Mark Steel: When anarchy meets Gardener's World**  
Viewpaper, page 4

ANDY RAIN/EPA; KI PRICE



# YouthLink adds voice to attack on university cuts

Agency chief describes Strathclyde's decision as short sighted

ANDREW DETHOLM  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CUTS to courses at a Scottish university have been attacked by the country's leading youth work organisation.

YouthLink Scotland, the national agency for youth work, said a proposal by Strathclyde University to close its community education course was "short sighted and ill thought out".

Earlier this month, former Scottish Government minister Margaret Curran, Labour MP for Glasgow East, also expressed shock over the plans.

Ms Curran said the course, which trains students to work in inner city and most deprived areas, was crucial to the country's future as a land of care services.

Jon Sweeney, chief executive of YouthLink Scotland, has now written to university officials expressing "deep concern" over the proposal. "The organisation has also written to every MSP to request wider support."

Mr Sweeney said: "Almost all of our 180 or so member organi-

**66**  
The graduates of this course will help fuel the recovery in some of the most impoverished communities in Scotland

isations support staff that have benefited from receiving higher education at the university's community education course.

"In the current economic climate, now is not the time to be cutting this course, the graduates of which will help fuel the recovery in some of the most impoverished communities in Scotland."

"This decision can and must be reversed for the long term benefit of society in west-central Scotland and beyond."

Mr Sweeney went on to criticise the rationale behind the decision. A minority consultation paper on the future of community education submitted in one of the few areas of the university to engage with the wider community.

However, it also "regretted a lack of serious concern about research performance and financial sustainability



BACKLASH: Protesters have already made known their feelings on the proposed cuts to courses at Strathclyde University. Picture: Martin Shields

## Scots still trail rest of UK in graduate start-up firms

ANDREW DETHOLM

SCOTTISH universities produce fewer graduate start-up companies than rival institutions in the rest of the UK, new figures show.

A report by the Higher Education Statistics Agency found Scotland lags behind both England and Wales in the number of graduate companies

formed last year, per head of population.

However, the situation is improving, with 139 new start-ups in 2008-10 compared to 74 the previous year. There were 227 spin-outs in Wales last year and 237 in England.

MS Scotland, which represents students, said high levels of commercial debt could be leading Scottish students back.

Liam Burns, president of

MS Scotland, also suggested a new qualification should be awarded to students who used undergraduate studies to benefit local communities, the public sector or businesses.

"Students often tell us that taking what is a massive leap of faith to start up their own company is just too risky when they have been forced into high levels of commercial debt during their degree," he said.

"If we want to be comparable

with the rest of the UK then the amount of money students have in their pocket has to increase. It would also be exciting to recognise students who focus their research into helping community organisations, not-for-profit enterprises, local authorities or building Scotland's economy."

However, Alistair Finn, director of Universities Scotland, which represents

the delivery of the university's academic aim of encouraging multi-disciplinary research and teaching.

"The new faculty has developed a vision that will strengthen its reputation in higher education, English, history, journalism, languages, law, psychology, science and health, social work and social policy, government and public policy."

A university spokesman said: "A strong Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is critical to

the strategy of becoming a leading European technological institution."

Up to 250 could be lost from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences under the proposals that could save the university £750,000.

Strathclyde said the students were underperforming in research, were not financially viable and were no longer core to

the university's academic aim of encouraging multi-disciplinary research and teaching.

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The final decision on the proposed closure of the department will be taken at the university's ruling council on June 18.

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